

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hidden cuts in housing benefits

SEVEN million of the 7.5 million people claiming housing benefit face cuts in assistance towards rent and rates bills, according to the figures withheld from the Green Paper on welfare state reform. Back page.

By-pass crash

THREE people died and 41 were injured in a crash on a by-pass described as dangerous when it opened three weeks ago. Back page.

Windscale blame

HASTY decisions and sloppy management led to the radioactive contamination of beaches near Windscale, it was alleged in court yesterday. Page 4.



There'll be another one along in a minute.

Pit ban off

THE pit superstars' union, Nspcc, yesterday called off its three-week campaign. Back page.

Embryos debate

IF the Powell bill survives parliamentary procedures tomorrow the Commons is likely to witness extreme and emotionally unscrupulous techniques from pro-experimenters. Hugo Young, page 19.

Fees inquiry

AN internal inquiry is being held into fees charged by consultants for giving medical examinations to social security claimants and for insurance companies. Page 2.

Exam threat

TOUGHER action by teachers could disrupt the introduction of the 16-plus exam system. Page 4.

Space meeting

EUROPE's spacecraft, Giotto, is almost ready for a 290 million rendezvous with Halley's Comet. Future, page 15.

Sudan aid

BRITAIN is providing a Hercules cargo plane to join a famine relief of supplies in western Sudan. Back page.

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The weather

SUNNY intervals and some showers. Details, back page.

Derby's runaway winner

Richard Barrie, the English aristocrat, represented by Lord Howard de Walden with his homebred colt, Slip Anchor, managed to defeat the combined might of the Arabs and the Robert Sangster consortium in the Ever Ready Derby at Epsom yesterday. Slip Anchor scored one of the most sensational victories in the history of the race as he came round Tattenham Corner 15 lengths in front of the field. He was then allowed to cruise home in the hands of the champion jockey, the American Steve Cauthen, who won the race. Slip Anchor's attempt since his arrival here in 1978, the last American jockey to win the race was Frank O'Neill on Spion Kop in 1920. Slip Anchor finished seven lengths in front of the Irish-

Heathrow terminal shelved • Pledge to sell BAA

Expansion of Stansted fuels regional row

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The Government yesterday ended a quarter of a century of indecision by approving the development of Stansted as London's third international airport, but the debate over the expansion of airport facilities in the South-east showed no signs of abating.

Residents and local MPs who had campaigned against the construction of a fifth terminal at Heathrow to increase the airport's capacity from 38 million passengers to 53 million passengers a year were able to claim a modest victory as plans for the new terminal have been shelved.

The Government's decision to appease the group of Tory MPs clustered in constituencies round Heathrow is likely to enable it to push through its white paper on airports policy when it is debated in the Commons, despite the certain opposition of the 70 MPs who have implacably fought the Stansted development.

But Heathrow residents were infuriated by the announcement that the 275,000 annual air traffic movements ceiling, which was to have been imposed on the airport, will not now be enforced. They were also angered by the disclosure that talks are to begin between the Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and the British Airports Authority on transferring the neighbouring Perry Oak sludge works, which is the most probable site for a fifth terminal.

Luton, in the meantime, was taken back by the announcement that the local authority is to be encouraged to raise

capacity at its airport from 2 million to 5 million passengers per annum.

There was little comfort in the white paper for local authorities who had advocated the expansion of regional airports to divert traffic and thus business from the South-east. The Government is to encourage the development of Manchester as a "hub" airport, including persuading more US airlines to fly long-haul into the airport, and will approve a second terminal when this is justified by demand and return on capital. But this was the only real sop for the regions, other than a government promise to consider his neglect of the regions when he unveiled the white paper in the Commons. The shadow transport secretary Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, said that the lack of support for regional airports meant that Mr Ridley had "materially reversed his position since January." The white paper "imposed a restriction which is unacceptable on regional development by saying there could be no development unless there was a proven market," she said.

Mr Ridley, who had earlier presented the white paper as evidence that the present Government is not prepared to think decisions on the growth of air traffic in the UK, described Mrs Dunwoody's reaction as "predictable."

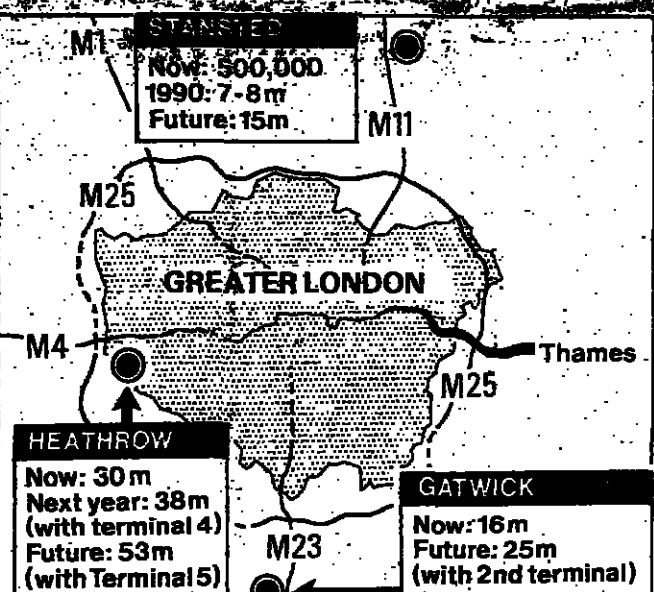
Apart from the Government's refusal to divert traffic artificially from London, "there is nothing which the North-west and other regions have asked for in the development of their airport which is not contained in the white paper," he retorted.

Stansted will initially be extended from its present 2 million passengers to 3 million passengers a year by 1995. Approval has also been granted in principle to increase its capacity to 15 million passengers and the Government did not rule out a further rise to a 25 million ceiling.

The development is predicted to create 18,000 jobs in the area. Extending Stansted to cater for 15 million passengers a year could absorb 2,400 acres of agricultural land and will cost the BAA £240 million at 1981 prices.

Housing demand may hinder flight, page 2; Parliament, page 8; Leader comment, page 14.

the white paper also pledged to privatise the BAA, which owns Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, as well as the four principal Scottish airports, as a single unit. This is expected to take place in 1987 and will make the UK the only country in the world whose international airports are privately owned. In addition, the Conservatives are to take steps to facilitate the privatisation of a number of regional airports such as Birmingham International, Liverpool and Newcastle, which are currently controlled by local authorities. The Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, was the immediate target for Opposition fury



Tamils find new way out

David Pallister in Colombo

The exodus of Sri Lankan Tamils to Europe is growing with the intensity of the civil war. Between 70,000 and 100,000 already in southern India, their 2.7 million population has shrunk by 5 per cent in the past two years.

Western diplomatic sources here conceded that the flood is unstoppable and likely to increase in the coming months if the northern and eastern provinces remain racked by Tamil guerrilla attacks and savage, indiscriminate reprisals on civilians by the security forces.

There are more than 200 refugees in the pipeline, but many are afraid to travel south on public transport. One man in a northern village told me: "I want to send my boy to England to join his relatives. Otherwise, I'm afraid that he will either be killed or he will be forced to join the guerrillas."

The main route, with so many European countries tightening up their immigration laws, is to West Berlin, the most accessible destination for other previous waves of refugees. The Sri Lankan travel

Troops "back mob attack" on Tamil communities, page 7

on Aeroflot via Moscow to East Berlin or on Air Lanka to Vienna, with an interlink connection to East Berlin. Because the West German government does not recognise West Berlin as a legitimate border, that avenue will remain open indefinitely. So far this year 4,000 have arrived, adding to the 8,000 who claimed refugee status last year. Only 233 have been granted asylum so far, but the West Berlin government has no intention of deporting anyone.

Expressing what a number of other diplomats said, a German embassy spokesman said: "We believe many of them are economic refugees but our hands are tied. They prefer to sleep in dormitories there, than to remain in their homes here. Overall, West Berlin had 35,000 refugees last year."

The French estimate that 15,000 Tamils have illegally entered in the past two years. "We have tightened up our border security, but they can easily come in on all our land borders," a spokesman said. Holland, which has at least 3,000 illegal Tamils in bed and breakfast, hotels, is still considering its Civil Service Commission report earlier this year, which said that not all



Mr John Wakeham and his fiancée, Miss Alison Ward, at No. 12 Downing St yesterday

Tory whip to wed again

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

THE Government Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, surprised parliamentary colleagues at Westminster yesterday by announcing his engagement to his special adviser, Miss Alison Ward. Mr Wakeham's first wife, Roberta, was killed in the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel, Brighton, at the Tory party conference eight months ago. Mr Wakeham suffered serious leg injuries in an explosion and is still recovering. Yesterday, Mr Wakeham, aged 52, and Miss Ward, 35, stood in the garden of No.

12 Downing Street, the chief whip's official residence, hand in hand, to announce that they would be getting married, probably in July. Miss Ward will continue working in the whip's office for the next few weeks. Their wedding will be conducted by the College of Heralds for the Venerable Edwin Greenfield, who recently retired as Archbishop of Sherborne in Dorset, having served for nearly 30 years as a chaplain to the Queen. Miss Ward, who was wearing her engagement ring—a diamond set in a diamond cluster—has been a special adviser to Mr Wakeham

since 1983. She previously worked closely with Mrs Thatcher and has earned a reputation at Westminster as a thorough organiser. The Dorchester cleric's daughter was educated at West Dean Park, a private school in Sussex, and worked for the College of Heralds from 1963 to 1970 when she joined Mrs Thatcher's private office as her constituency secretary. Mrs Thatcher was then the Education Secretary but Miss Ward continued to work for her when she became leader of the Opposition. After the successful 1979

Harriers complete tour of duty in Falklands

From John Ezard in Port Stanley

The last of the jump-jet Harrier fighters which won the battle in the air during the 1982 Falklands conflict have been counted back to Britain. It was disclosed here yesterday.

British Forces Headquarters announced that the final flight of Harriers still in the garrison had been withdrawn to start Nato duties. It said they were no longer needed as part of the air defence of the is-

Falklands paces stopped Chile embargo, page 4.

lands after the opening of the main 8,500-foot runway on the new rapid reinforcement air port at Mount Pleasant last month.

A forces spokesman said the garrison's remaining Phantom interceptors would operate with "greater flexibility than hitherto because of the new runway. But he declined to say whether extra Phantoms would replace any of the Harriers.

The versatile little fighters, which could take off and land without proper airstrips, are known to have been crated and flown home in one of the wide-bodied passenger and cargo jets now running a twice-weekly service from Britain.

The move was foreshadowed in the latest defence white paper on May 1, which said: "Once the airport and garrison facilities are complete, we should be able to reduce still further the level of forces permanently stationed on the islands." It saddened the Harrier crews, who were able to put in more flying hours and intensive training in their exercise zones over unpopulated parts of the Falklands than anywhere else in the world. They

Exchange rejects corporate membership

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

Stock Exchange rebels yesterday blocked a proposal to transfer membership from individuals to corporations and give members the chance to sell shares in the exchange.

The resolution needed a 75 per cent majority to change the market's deed of settlement, but received 73.6 per cent of the votes from the 4,495 members, after campaigning by the dissidents, mainly from small broking firms.

But members overwhelmingly backed the most crucial vote, paving the way for outsider firms to become members of the exchange for the first time, which allows a member firm to be 100 per cent owned, was critical to the market's future competitive-

ness. If it had been rejected, outsiders, mainly the giant US and other foreign houses, would have immediately started dealing in UK shares and government-secured securities outside the exchange.

It would also have disrupted planning for the "big bang" next autumn which will bring

in a dual capacity dealing system—removing separation of jobbers and brokers' functions—and abolish fixed commissions.

Defeat of the share proposal should not immediately endanger the market's competitiveness but the exchange will have to find a way to give new "corporate" members a say in government.

The outside firms who have forged links with most of the large stockbroking and jobbing firms will be paying for the bulk of the exchange's services.

There is still a danger that the bulk of the gilt market could move outside.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the exchange chairman, said the defeat was sad but not a disaster. "I am sad because the opportunity has been lost to ensure a closer identity in the future between these new firms and the government."

The council is expected to create special committees to give new firms control over policy. It will also have to find a new way for firms who apply for membership to pay for entry.

Under the share scheme every member's 50 shares was to be split into five units which could be sold in a free market. New firms would have to have bought 100 shares.

Livingstone stands for treasurer

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent

Mr Ken Livingstone will today announce that he will challenge Mr Sam McCuskie for election as the Labour Party's treasurer at the annual conference in Bournemouth in September.

His candidacy, which is backed by the Tribune weekly is understood to embody full support for the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock and its new general secretary, Mr Larry Whitty.

Supporters of the Greater London Council leader do not see his challenge to Mr McCuskie as anything to do with left-right divisions in the party.

Mr Livingstone is likely to argue for a programme of modernising the party, increasing its income base and developing popular campaigning techniques. The treasurer has a seat on the national executive.

Mr Livingstone will also argue for more use of professional advice and campaign materials of the sort which the GLC has used in its fight against abolition.

It has been rare in the past for a new challenger for the post of party treasurer to win at the first attempt. Mr Livingstone can expect to have considerable backing from the constituency sections and significant trade union support, but this may not be enough at the first time of asking.

Mr McCuskie is considered to be in the centre of the party. He held off a challenge by Mr Albert Booth as the left wing's candidate at last year's conference.

Advice on safety 'ignored'

By Malcolm Pithers

The inquiry into the fire disaster at Bradford City's football ground at Valley Parade was told yesterday that not one recommendation on safety in the Government's Safety at Sports Grounds guide had been carried out by the club. Nor had other authorities followed up their concern over safety precautions.

The inquiry opened at Bradford City Hall under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Popplewell with Mr Andrew Collins QC, revealing that the fire had almost certainly been started accidentally when a cigarette was dropped through a gap under the seats on to debris which had collected for at least 17 years.

Mr Collins outlined events which led to the fire on May 11, in which 50 people died. Four others have since died in hospital.

He said that all but two exit doors were locked, and police and spectators had to break some down to escape the inferno.

The inquiry was told that there were no fire extinguishers immediately available and that a fire hose which had been used the day before to water the pitch could not be connected to the mains water supply outside the ground without passing through the blazing stand. Spectators ignored police warnings to evacuate the stand quickly because there was no sense of urgency.

The first witnesses began giving evidence yesterday. They included two Yorkshiremen now living in Australia who had been to the match. Mr Samuel Bennett said he had gone with his nephew and had smoked a cigarette. He could not remember how he had put it out, but thought he had dropped it on to concrete.

Full report, page 4

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Whitty plans big shake-up at Labour's HQ

By Martin Linton

A shake-up is expected at Labour Party headquarters soon after the party's new general secretary, Mr. Tony Blair, starts work next week.

Mr. Whitty will present a paper to the party's committee on Monday, when he takes over, proposing a reduction in the number of departments at the Walworth Road headquarters in south London from 10 to three.

In place of 10 department heads there will be three, covering administration, campaigning (including organisation and publicity), and development, which will include research and international.

It is not clear whether directors whose departments will be demoted to the status of sections will stay on at their present salaries until they leave, or whether they will be offered golden handshakes by the unions.

But there is no doubt that Mr. Whitty intends to win the support of Labour's national executive committee for a fundamental change in the structure of the party head office and the regions, and a slimming down of the top-heavy management structure.

Mr. Whitty was appointed in January and has waited four months to take over from the retiring general secretary, Mr. Jim Mortimer. The time has been needed for the thorough review of the party's organisation and structure which preceded his report.

The review, chaired by the Labour leader, Mr. Neil Kinnock, has taken the best out of all the earlier reviews of party organisation over the past 20 years, back to the Wilson report of the early sixties which described the party machine to a penny farthing in a machine age.

But most of the proposals seem to have come from the organisation and methods report of 1972, which was conducted by an American management consultancy but was quietly buried because of difficulties in reaching agreement with the staff and within the NEC.

Mr. Whitty can expect concerted opposition to his proposals in some quarters, but as a new general secretary with the backing of a new leader, he has the ideal opportunity to push through unpopular measures.

In an interview in this week's issue of *Tribune*, the newspaper of the Labour left, he says that his proposals are designed to "streamline the office structure, sharpen up the professionalism in the party, and deploy the resources in the regions to greater effect."

He accepts that the Labour party feels it has not been well served by its head office, and that some criticisms are justified. "I am going to be a hatchet man in terms of chopping off what we don't need to do," he says, "but I'm not in the business of being a hatchet man as far as individuals are concerned."

Mr. Whitty's main aim will be to turn the party into a campaigning organisation. Too often staff have appeared as policemen on the one hand and bureaucrats attending endless meetings on the other, he says.

"There will always be the need for some discipline in a party of our size, as well as the need for some internal bureaucracy, but it is the outward-facing function of the party staff I want to enhance, and that will mean some squeeze on other functions."

If the NEC accepts the basic idea of three departments, Mr. Whitty will have to consider the paper at the end of this month, the most probably appointments appear to be Mr. Geoff Bish, head of research, as director of the new development department; Mr. Tony Duckworth, head of finance, as director of the new administrative department; and either Mr. David Hughes, the national agent, or Ms. Joyce Gould, an assistant national agent, as director of the new campaigning department.

Other heads of departments, such as Mr. Nick Grant, director of press and publicity, and Ms. Jenny Little, international secretary, would stay at the head of their sections, but their jobs would be advertised at a lower grade when they are next vacant.

Doctors have not passed this on to health authorities.

The department said last night that it did not know how much money was involved or how many patients are examined under the system.

Mr. Clarke in a statement yesterday said: "Our auditors have drawn attention to cases where mistakes have been made in payments by social security and to health authorities. The sums involved are comparatively small but we must make sure that these fees are properly paid and handled in every case."

The British Medical Association welcomed the investigation as helpful and said that anything which encouraged health authorities to receive cash they were entitled to would benefit the National Health Service.

Mr. David Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, has alleged that there has been a general failure of health authorities to collect money due to them from consultants.

Doctors are, however, expected to return the BMA accused health administrators of failing to provide a proper system to collect the cash.

They identified, in a report published yesterday, the "major resource problem" facing all health departments in further education colleges: finding clients ready to put their hands in the students' hands. Large departments need hundreds every week.

"Senior citizens provide the most regular and reliable client group and are generally suitable for practice of basic health training skills," the inspector said.

"In more advanced work, such as fashion and style cuts, the problem of acceptable models becomes acute. Bringing pensioners into the colleges is a lot easier than sending them out transformed by modern cuts and colours."

"In a small country town in south-west Scotland, you don't see many of these styles walking around," said Mrs. Audrey Brown, a senior lecturer in hairdressing at Dumfries and Galloway College of Technology.

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

British Steel's special steels division yesterday rejected a plan to save Tinsley Park steelworks in Sheffield, which is due to close next March.

The unions concerned had prepared a 50-page plan, involving a three-year stay of execution and a 20 per cent increase in production, but Mr. John Pennington, managing director special steels, rejected the proposals. He said that their viability was dependent on government reflation and



Stansted's unyielding face.

Picture by Frank Martin

Stansted property boom may help dim protest

Fight may go to Strasbourg, Martin Wainwright reports

AT THE END of the 17th century a tract called The Flying Serpent, or Strange News out of Essex was published in London, describing a monstrous winged creature which was terrifying the good people of Henham, Ugley and Cuckfield End.

Yesterday another tract about Essex and alarming flying objects was published in London, this time by Mr. Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary.

His announcement that Stansted airport, just a mile or two south of Henham, is to be expanded to handle an initial target of eight million passengers a year (against 500,000 at present), met with an angry local reaction.

But there were signs that the vigour of the 20-year-old protest movement is not as robust as it was.

In 1964, when a Labour government first eyed the old USAF bomber ground, the base posters and protests blossomed all over the outstandingly pretty countryside with requests for valuations as people prepared compensation claims for only a quarter of their properties' price.

Twenty years of campaigning could hardly fail to dull the edge a bit and the

North-west Essex and East Herts Preservation Association takes a noticeably weary tone. The alliance of 23 local groups and thousands of individuals is thinking of taking the matter to the European Commission on Human Rights.

"After agonising and winning two major public inquiries we have been forced to take on a third," said Mrs. Sue Forsyth of the association.

"We shall ask the court to declare that no government has the right to treat its citizens this way."

Both county councils affected, East Hertfordshire and Uttlesford in Essex, are on the association's side, and are looking for loopholes to justify a challenge to Mr. Ridley in the High Court.

The current Essex structure plan allocates only 1,500 new houses in the next 15 years to Uttlesford, which is exceptionally rural for an area so close to London.

Mr. Chris Knight, the planning director, points out that as other districts council within 50 miles of the capital has such a sparse population (0.4 people per acre).

Uttlesford is also lucky as far as employment goes with an unemployment rate of only 6 per cent. Mr. Knight, who lives on a small estate in Great Dunmow, the grounds that it would bring new jobs. But Mr. Knight took a different view.

"A lot of the airport work would be skilled in fields like electronics and engineering," he said. "But we have got very modern technological companies here which are already having to lure new people from 20 or 30 miles away to fill vacancies."

The mobility of local labour, however, may be the real Achilles heel for the protesters, who have seen a dramatic change in local communities since the sixties. From being an isolated rural pocket with only the traffic-jammed A11 to London, South Essex has become a highly desirable new commuter nest.

The M11 and M25 motorways have made the difference — and taken the credit for keeping house prices well in the high, soaring south-eastern average.

Members of the preservation association were talking about civil disobedience yesterday and threatening a wholesale shift of votes away from the Conservatives to the Alliance and Labour at the next election.

Mr. John Thorne, the leader of the Labour group on Essex County Council, viewed the proposed expansion of Luton with "very great concern."

Mr. Jim Denyer, director of Newcastle airport, said the proposals were "favourable for the regions."

Manchester lobby loses its unity

By Peter Hetherington and David Rose

UNITY in the powerful cross-party lobby fighting for the development of regional airports was broken last night. Some MPs, local politicians and airport directors reacted with cautious enthusiasm to the Government's proposals, others with outright hostility.

While some Conservatives under pressure from constituents and business interests were claiming limited success in the campaign against the expansion of Stansted, Labour MPs and councillors could not conceal their disappointment and anger. Some airport directors, to add to the confusion, were claiming victory.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, said that the Manchester airport was a major international gateway and that it was the Government's duty to maintain it.

more expansion in the South-east and a slap in the face for the North.

For four years, under the umbrella of the North of England regional consortium, 20 large councils and airport authorities have been campaigning with a range of well researched reports and leaflets for the development of Manchester to become "the Stansted of the North."

The campaign united widely different sections of opinion, most MPs and councillors, against any further large airport developments in the South-east.

At the last large Conservative gathering — the meeting of the party's Central Council — the government, and Mr. Ridley in particular, was strongly criticised for favouring the south at the expense of the north, which has lost 712,000 jobs since 1979.

Mr. Alf Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe, said last night that the Government had not

been able to quantify the advantages for the North in its proposals, while the benefits for the South were plain to see. The "fat cat" in the South-east would again benefit, with the likelihood of 18,000 more jobs.

While the Labour chairman of the Manchester Airport Authority, Mr. Keith Barnes, saw little to cheer about the airport director, Mr. Gil Thompson, was enthusiastic.

He said it was a major victory that the Stansted proposals had been scaled down. Pressure groups opposed to the further expansion of Heathrow reacted with guarded relief.

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David McKie

Ridley soon curdles the stew

THE Industry Secretary, Norman Tebbit, yesterday described a report in the *Financial Times* (long ago, his employer) as a "bouillabaisse," which he thoughtfully translated, "a soup made of what have not yet got round to boiling in Provence, as a kind of fish stew."

There was a much bigger cauldron of bouillabaisse on its way to the Commons at that very moment, though in the shape of Mr. Nicholas Ridley's statement on airports. Churning about within it were ingredients to gratify or curdle almost every taste.

For dockland, a Stolport; for Gatwick and Luton, more space for Heathrow, no 5th terminal (at least not yet), but no limit on aircraft movements either.

And for Stansted, solid expansion: not to the ultimate 25 million passengers a year which the Inspector envisaged, but to seven or eight million for a start and perhaps 15 million — Parliament permitting — thereafter.

In case that mixture still did not satisfy, Mr. Ridley had thrown in one final element: a dash of privatisation, the monosodium glutamate of present-day Conservative politics.

The Transport Secretary, of course, has been in almost constant contact with Patrick Jenkin this session, but for a while yesterday it looked as if the recipe might be work-

Politics, page 8

Consultant fees' inquiry set up

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

An internal inquiry into fees charged by consultants for giving medical examinations to social security claimants and for insurance companies was announced yesterday by Mr. Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister.

It follows disclosures by Department of Health and Social Security auditors of widespread failure by consultants to pass on cash due to health authorities for using the authorities' facilities for examinations.

According to the department, fees collected for giving medical examinations for clients of insurance companies can be negotiated by the doctors themselves.

But fees covering examining social security claimants on behalf of the department are paid at two rates — the higher for doctors who use laboratory and hospital facilities.

Doctors are, however, expected to return the BMA accused health administrators of failing to provide a proper system to collect the cash.

They identified, in a report published yesterday, the "major resource problem" facing all health departments in further education colleges: finding clients ready to put their hands in the students' hands. Large departments need hundreds every week.

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keep the plant open, and in some cases a meeting with BSC. They also hope to persuade the House of Commons select committee on trade and industry to back their case. Attempts by union leaders to persuade Mr. Pennington not to confirm the closure until the select committee had considered the plan failed.

Steelworkers believe that the closure is a prelude to the privatisation of BSC special steels through a merger with GKN's Brymbo works in North Wales.

Union leaders have not given up their campaign to

Search for heads for hands of students

By Andrew Moncar, Education Staff

SCOTLAND'S student hairdressers are having to comb the community to find volunteers willing to submit to their unskilled hands: their work on modern styling is not much helped by the lack of "junk granules" in Dumfries.

The problems that colleges face in finding sufficient patient and trusting models of suitably varying ages — has caught the attention of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools.

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Links between drug companies and safety committee to be made public

By James Erlichman, Chemical Correspondent

Close links between pharmaceutical companies and new members of the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines will have to be disclosed publicly in future.

Four serving members of the committee, which vets and approves the sale of new drugs in Britain, are already acting as paid consultants to drug companies, the Health Minister, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, has revealed.

But Mr. Clarke refused, in a written answer to a Labour MP, Mr. Frank Haynes, to name the four men or the companies they work for. He said the four declared their interests as required, in confidence, in the Committee's Division of the Department of Health and Social Security before they joined the committee, "and we propose to respect that confidence."

But there has been considerable disquiet within the medical community about the links between committee members and drug companies, and the government has apparently bowed to pressure for public disclosure.

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Belgian police plan UK trip to seek suspect fans

By Sarah Bosley

Belgian police officers are preparing to come to Britain, with the blessing of Merseyside police and the Home Office, for consultations on the extradition of English soccer fans alleged to be responsible for the violence in the Heysel stadium, Brussels, last week which killed 39 people at the Liverpool v Juventus European Cup final.

A delegation of Belgian judicial police — magistrates' representatives in Belgium — will wish to discuss the legal requirements of the Belgian courts, where they are hoping to prosecute any British fans who can be identified as instigators of the violence.

A unit has been set up by Merseyside police to collect information offered by the public about the culprits, and to try to identify them from 50 hours of film footage. Detective Superintendent Bill Sergeant, who is leading the inquiry, wants anybody with films or photographs of what happened to come forward.

In Italy, more than 100 Juventus fans who were standing in section Z at the Heysel stadium last Wednesday have claimed that some English fans were armed with clubs or poles from which nails protruded.

A magistrate in Turin yesterday recommended that charges should be filed against Belgian officials for allegedly disfiguring the bodies of Italian victims of the violence during autopsies.

The mayor of Turin, Mr. Giorgio Cardelli, has welcomed a proposed goodwill visit from Liverpool city council on June 17.

In Zurich, the secretary-general of UEFA, Mr. Hans Bangerter, was reported as saying that further sanctions were planned against Liverpool, Juventus and the Belgian Football Union.

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Mass plea for far more cash

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

More than a million conscientious Roman Catholics in Dublin will be asked this Sunday to make the collection plates rattle that little bit more.

Congregations throughout 16 parishes are to hear an appeal from their Archdiocese for Dr. Kevin McNamara for an extra 25 per cent on contributions to stave off the threat of bankruptcy.

The image of an affluent Mother Church has taken a knock with new statistics showing the archdiocese running a £14.9 million debt, which will reach £20 million in four years unless the Roman Catholics dig deeper.

This parlous state of affairs is the result of an enormous population growth in Dublin over the past 15 years, coupled with a population drift towards the city.

More than one in three Irish people live in the Dublin area and more than half of them are under 25.

This shifting pattern has meant that the archdiocese has provided 43 new churches and 75 new primary schools, as well as numerous nurseries and parish centres, over the past 13 years.

To try to keep pace, a diocesan development fund, known as "share," was established, with Mass collections raising £2.5 million a year.

Repeat of Stonehenge violence feared

By David Hearst

The Government was urged yesterday to intervene in the growing conflict between the Stonehenge "peace convoy," which has taken refuge in Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, the Forestry Commission, which leases the land, and the British Police.

Labour MPs fear a repeat of the bloody scenes on Saturday, when 530 people were arrested, if the police are asked to clear the site.

Mr. Clive Soley, a Labour front bench spokesman on home affairs yesterday, appealed to Mr. Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, after reports that the numbers at the temporary camp had swollen to more than 300 and that riot police were poised to move in.

Mr. Soley has also written to Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, asking him to investigate claims that some police officers in Saturday's violent clashes had used tear gas and that police used metal-cutting iron spikes to stop vehicles in the convoy.

Officials of the Forestry Commission, who lease the land from the Earl of Cardigan's father, the Marquess of Ailesbury, and the earl himself were trying to persuade the campers to leave the site. The earl said: "I never welcomed these people on to the land. What I did was to say to the police, in response to a suggestion that 100 officers should move them out, was that I did not want to see a repeat of Saturday's violence."

Meanwhile, pressure was growing on the Forestry Commission to seek a court injunction to allow the police to evict Mr. John Fletcher, western director of the commission in Bristol, said there was no alternative site that the peace convoy could be offered to celebrate the banned Stonehenge festival.

Mr. Sid Rawle, who was part of a delegation to lobby Labour MPs in the Commons yesterday, said: "The police have made us homeless. They have inflicted between £100,000 and £250,000 of damage on our vehicles."

Mr. Rawle said they would move if they were offered an alternative site, but he insisted that they would celebrate the summer solstice in two weeks at Stonehenge.

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Train robber cleared of raid charges

By a Correspondent

Charles Wilson, one of the Great Train Robbers of the sixties, was freed at the Old Bailey yesterday when charges against him of plotting an armed raid on a security van were dropped after allegations of police corruption.

Mr Wilson, aged 53, who was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment in 1963 for his part in the £2.6 million train robbery and is still on parole, spent nearly four months in prison custody after his arrest last October by officers of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, two of whom are now facing charges.

All Mr Wilson would say as he left court was: "I was inside for too long," but his solicitor, Mr James Saunders, said that Mr Wilson, a car dealer, of Cranford Way, Twickenham, Middlesex, would be suing for compensation for the time he was in custody.

Released with Mr Wilson was Colin King, aged 36, a builder, of Bedford Road, Sidcup, Kent. He said he too had been held in custody from October to January, and would be seeking compensation.

The two men denied conspiring to rob and possessing two sawn-off shotguns, and Mr Rodney Smith, prosecuting, offered no evidence against them after consultations with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Smith told Judge Jack Abdala, QC, who awarded costs out of public funds to both defendants, that there were sufficient disquieting features about the Crown's evidence for him not to proceed with a trial.

The court was told that Detective Sergeant Kenneth Day and Detective Constable Richard Chapman, both aged 29, the officers who interviewed Mr Wilson and Mr King, had been arrested earlier this year and charged with conspiracy to rob and attempting to pervert justice in another case.

In April last year Mr Wilson had tax fraud charges dropped against him at the Old Bailey after two trials in which another of the Great Train Robbers, Roy James, aged 49, was acquitted. The prosecution claimed that Mr Wilson was involved in a £2.4 million VAT swindle over the melting down of gold coins.

The prosecution claimed in the case which collapsed yesterday that Mr Wilson and Mr King had been planning a hold-up in Mitcham, Surrey, and had two sawn-off shotguns.

Mr Alan Rawley, QC, for Mr King, told the judge: "The defendants say this was a fit-up, and a deliberate one."

Mr Stephen Solley, for Mr Wilson, said that confessions alleged to have been made by his client and Mr King were flatly denied. A piece of paper said to have been found in Mr Wilson's possession, bearing the index number of a security vehicle, had been "manufactured," counsel added.



Charles Wilson leaving court yesterday.



WAR SURPLUS: Dummies in German and Allied uniforms await buyers at an auction of planes, armoured vehicles and memorabilia from the Whitehall Theatre Museum of War in London.

Picture by Martin Argles

Retirement test case taken to Euro court

A retired nurse, Miss Helen Marshall, yesterday appealed to the European court of Justice in Luxembourg for a test case ruling which could give British women the right to work past the age of 60.

"I am fighting this case because I think I was good enough to work on at least until 65, the same age as men," said Miss Marshall, who is 67.

As an employee of the National Health Service she had to retire at 60, although she was allowed to stay on as an expert dietician for two extra years. She had wanted to carry on working and began a court action challenging the NHS ruling and the Government's 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

When the case reached the European court yesterday, five years after being dismissed by an industrial tribunal, Miss Marshall said: "It has been estimated that about 300,000 women retire at 60 in Britain, and I would think that about one third of them are still fully competent and retain a useful working life."

She pointed out that Mrs Thatcher would reach 60 later this year, but showed no sign of giving up work.

The case was passed to the European court by the Court of Appeal for an opinion. The Luxembourg judges heard that Miss Marshall, from Southampton, was dismissed from her job by the Southampton and South-west Hampshire area health authority, for whom she had worked since 1968.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, for Miss Marshall, said yesterday that Common Market law backed her case.

Mr Andrew Hillier, representing the authority, told the court that the UK's compulsory retirement age was linked to the state pension age.

A verdict will be announced later.

General secretary candidate discloses manpower document

ICI preparing for tough union line on plan to shed 2,800 jobs

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

ICI is anticipating an increasingly tough line from manual unions on job losses, according to an internal company document on its plan to shed another 2,800 jobs and achieve manpower savings of £49 million a year by 1990.

The document circulated by its personnel department says the likely savings from job losses and new working practices do not seem to justify buying off trouble with an extra-generous pay settlement. It discusses an alternative "gradualist" approach involving "limited generosity on pay" and the introduction of a new pay grade.

ICI said yesterday that all its job losses had been by voluntary redundancy or early retirement, and it was slowing down the rate. It shed 3,200 blue and white collar staff last year.

On the document ICI said: "Any company would look at its industrial relations. This document was a company secret."

Unions at ICI have rejected a 6.3 per cent offer and are pressing for talks on a new pay structure to accommodate changes in working practices.

The document, which admits that ICI is getting an increasingly hard-faced image, was

released yesterday by Mr David Warburton, the General, Municipal and Boilermakers Union chemicals officer, who said it blew the myth of ICI as a caring, conscientious employer.

He added: "I am looking for widespread support for a very tough line when we next meet the company."

Mr Warburton is seeking election as the general secretary and the ICI document draws attention to this and the candidacy of Mr Gerry Russell (another of its negotiators) for president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers as factors in the current relations with unions.

It says that many union activists and some officials are resentful that they have not stopped the decline in jobs

and the "more thoughtful and far-sighted... may find themselves under pressure to take a hard line, whatever their personal views may be."

The document says that the absolute (pay) level of weekly staff is beginning to leave some national officers open to criticism—and this may be particularly difficult for the two running for leadership.

While the company's survival needs may have justified acquiescence in running numbers down its "well trumpeted and highly visible productivity and profitability improvements appear to remove the need."

The document says that much of the savings achieved by new working practices would come from manpower reductions and the unions' fear of losing jobs and members is

a "major obstacle to progress."

Discussion of working practices will thrust manpower to the forefront "where people like David Warburton have been trying to put it for years and from which we have fairly successfully been able to keep it."

Whatever the objective facts, it says, the perception of many employees is that their contribution has not been adequately rewarded and ICI has honoured only the second half of its declared wish to be a "high pay/high productivity" company.

The document details potential manpower cuts of 2,487. More than 1,000 are in the petro/plastics division, where it sees potential savings of £22.7 million from 1990 onwards.

Mr John Edmonds, the GMBU's public services officer, told the union's conference in Blackpool yesterday that plans had already been made to take industrial action to achieve "an exceptional increase and a new wages structure" in the next pay settlement due in September for local authority manual workers.

Mr Edmonds, a candidate for general secretary, declared: "We are not looking for a glorious defeat or an inspiring failure—the Labour movement has had too many of those."

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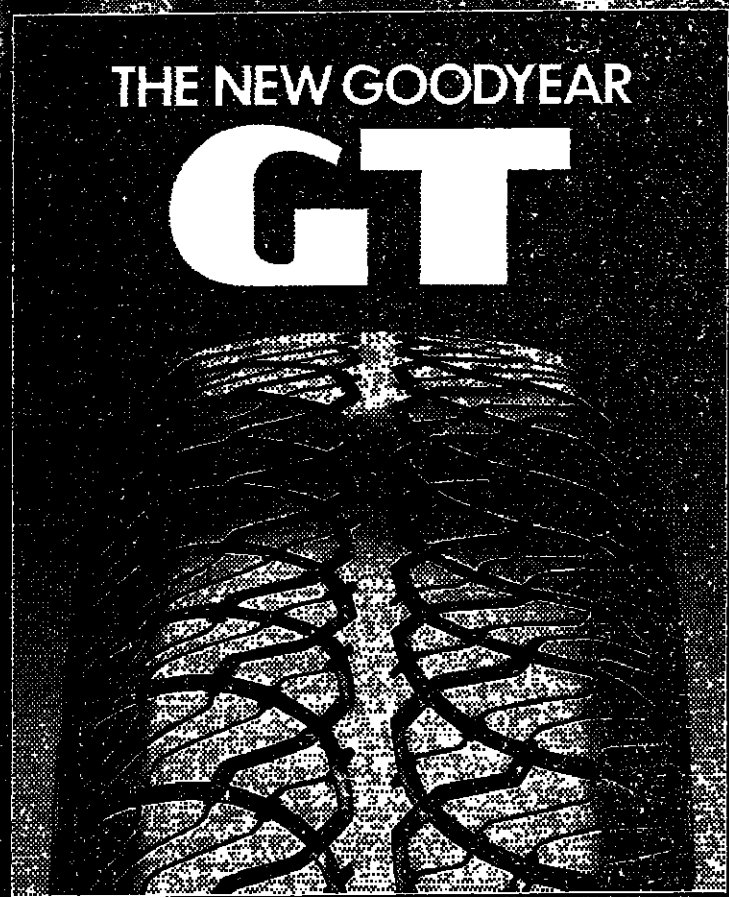
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OVERSEAS NEWS

Portugal in turmoil in run up to EEC accession

Soares deprived of power base as coalition collapses

Portuguese politics are in disarray on the eve of the country's accession to the EEC. The Social Democrats have decided to pull out of the coalition with the Socialists, leaving the Prime

Minister Dr Mario Soares' future in the hands of his old adversary, President Antonio Ramalho Eanes. The walk-out also seriously threatens Dr Soares' remaining political ambition — to become president.

From Peter Collis and Paul Eklund in Lisbon

The future of the government was still in the balance last night following Tuesday's announcement by the Social Democrats that they would walk out of the coalition with the Socialists on June 13, the day after Portugal signs its treaty of accession to the EEC.

Although the Socialists were still trying to decide how to remain in power, there was little doubt that there will be early parliamentary elections.

The walk-out will also seriously damage the political aspirations of the Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, who was relying on Social Democrat support in the November presidential election. They will now actively oppose him.

More immediately, the break-up of the uneasy two-year-old alliance will leave Dr Soares' Socialists without support in Parliament to govern effectively. On this basis the only practical alternative open to President Ramalho Eanes would seem to be new elections. The remaining question is whether the Socialists will stay on as caretakers until the elections or whether they will opt out altogether.

Under the terms of the country's constitution, President Eanes has until June 14 to decide.

The Social Democratic party leader, Mr Anibal Cavaco de Silva said on Tuesday, that his party had made the decision because the Socialists had consistently refused to carry out measures which had been agreed when the coalition was formed.

He said that the Socialists had shown themselves to be more interested in Dr Soares' plans to run for president at the end of the year than in implementing unpopular measures to modify Portugal's left-leaning labour and agrarian

reform laws. He said he would launch a campaign to deny Dr Soares the presidency.

Dr Soares has often indicated that he will run for office, and had hoped that the Social Democrats would back him. Mr Cavaco Silva, an economist who was educated at York University, believes that the only way to stop the Portuguese economy declining is through a radical break with the more or less leftwing policies that successive governments have pursued since the coup on April 27, 1974, which ended almost 50 years of rightwing dictatorship.

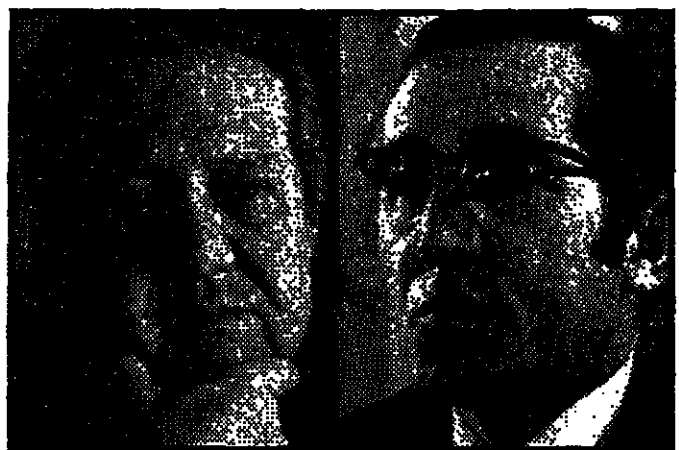
Mr Cavaco Silva, who took over the leadership of the Social Democrats on May 19, has said that his choice for president will be Mr Diogo Freitas do Amaral, a candidate of the rightwing Christian Democrats who was for a year government partner of the Social Democrats in the Democratic Alliance.

The Social Democrats believe the Socialists have dragged their feet on a new labour package they promised to put

through by the end of May. The new legislation would have given Portugal's business owners more room for manoeuvring in hiring and firing workers — a condition they say is essential for reviving Portuguese industry.

Mr Cavaco Silva's party is also pressing for drastic spending cuts and disinvestment in the country's loss-making state industry sector and for measures to hasten and privatisation of farm land held by collectives in the agrarian reform areas.

In any case, the immediate future is seen as a matter for President Eanes to decide. Political sources in Lisbon said last night that the President, who has made no secret of his personal antipathy to Dr Soares, had three choices: he could dismiss the entire cabinet and call early elections; he could dismiss Dr Soares and then ask the assembly to support a cabinet run by a prime minister of his own choosing; or he could appoint a non-party cabinet of technocrats to run the country until the presidential election.



Dr Mario Soares (left) and President Antonio Ramalho Eanes: old foes facing a common difficulty

Hitler diaries case near its end

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

THE prosecution yesterday began examining its case against the two chief defendants charged with fraud in the fake Hitler Diaries trial in Hamburg.

After almost 10 months of proceedings, the public prosecutor, Mr Wolfgang Siegmund, said the self-confessed forger of the 60 volumes, Konrad Kujau, was guilty of "continued fraud". He said he had pretended that the diaries were genuine in an attempt to enrich himself.

Kujau and Gerd Heidemann, the former Stern magazine reporter accused with him, listened impassively to the prosecution's pleas, and ignored each other. If convicted, they face maximum prison terms of 10 years.

Stern paid a total of £2.5 million to Heidemann for the volumes which were declared "proteusque superficial forgeries" by the West German Federal Archives.

The prosecutor traced Kujau's proclivity for forging Third Reich documents back to 1974, when the dealer in Nazi memorabilia began to sell faked Hitler writings and paintings to a collector.

Encouraged by his initial financial success, Kujau started to buy oil paintings and watercolours in flea markets and antique sales and added Hitler's faked signature to them, the prosecutor alleged.

To dispel any suspicions about the sudden flood of the market with such items, Kujau invented the story that they originated from East Germany, Mr Siegmund said.

Eventually, Kujau thought up a story about a crashed Nazi plane in East Germany in which the diaries were allegedly found, and alerted Heidemann to the discovery, he said.

He had the really clever idea of accompanying every letterhead of the headquarters of Hitler's National Socialist Party.

Yesterday's session did not go into details of Kujau's allegation that he only received £500,000 of the total sum Heidemann obtained from Stern.

The court yesterday rejected a motion presented by Heidemann's defence counsel, that he said would show that Kujau received more money than he admitted.

The prosecutor said Heidemann's purchase of Hermann Göring's yacht, Carin II, put the reporter in a desperate financial situation. The accused tried to avert bankruptcy by selling the diaries to Stern, he added.

Heidemann has maintained until the end that the diaries were genuine. The prosecution is due to offer its recommendation. "The accused tried to at the end of three days of pleas. The verdict could be expected about the end of the month."

Lord Carrington, the secretary-general of Nato, tried to be more circumspect during the traditional eve-of-council press conference. But he also spoke of "the anxieties about the effect which abrupt negotiations could have on the Geneva

Mr Shultz, who belongs to the faction in the Administration which seeks to preserve US adherence to the Salt II treaty, has said that the will of the European Allies made by the European Allies to Mr Reagan, and that the President will let them have his decision by the weekend.

● Konrad Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"



Riot police confront militant redundant workers during yesterday's clashes

40 hurt in battle for factory

Ivry, France: More than 40 people were injured yesterday when about 200 workers armed with ball-bearings and sticks stormed a riot police cordon and occupied the Swedish-owned SKF engineering plant, closed by management in 1983.

Militants from the Communist-led CGT trade union federation, fired nuts and bolts from catapults and threw stones, iron radiators and bottles of acid at hundreds of riot police who retaliated with teargas grenades.

The police used a crane and a hydraulic platform to reach the roof as the militants were held at bay with teargas, then

stormed in, firing stun grenades, to regain control of the plant by noon.

Police said that 27 officers and about 15 demonstrators were injured, three seriously. One policeman was hit in the leg by a lead pellet fired from a small gun. Most of the militants had worn safety helmets.

During the clash, demonstrators outside the plant threw paving stones at police and blocked the street with lorries.

The CGT members, backed by the local Communist municipality, occupied the plant for 19 months, from the time they were dismissed, until they were removed for the first time by riot police last week. —Reuter.

Howe tells Shultz Salt treaty must not be endangered

By Hella Pick

Sir Geoffrey Howe bluntly told the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, yesterday that "the name of the game is to strengthen the arms control process, not to weaken it. We don't want the Americans to abrogate the Salt II treaty."

The Foreign Secretary was expressing his concern at the internal debate in the US Administration on whether to maintain the constraints on strategic nuclear arsenals, which this US-Soviet treaty imposes on the superpowers. He had met Mr Shultz in the Portuguese resort of Estoril on the eve of the Nato ministerial council, which begins a two-day session there today.

The Secretary of State held the same insistence that the Administration must reaffirm that any attempt to press this would only expose divisions in the alliance and would give a propaganda victory to the Kremlin, which is already using the space weapons issue to drive a wedge between the European members of Nato and the US.

Britain, in common with other West European countries, is ready to declare its endorsement of SDI, even if they only seek it for the current research phase of the Star Wars programme.

The Americans are looking for a positive reference to SDI in the communiqué, which the Nato ministerial council will issue at the end of its session. Mr Shultz has been warned that any attempt to press this would only expose divisions in the alliance and would give a propaganda victory to the Kremlin, which is already using the space weapons issue to drive a wedge between the European members of Nato and the US.

● Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"

Star Wars survives the Senate

From Mark Tran in Washington

The Republican-controlled Senate has fended off a barrage of amendments to curtail President Reagan's Star Wars proposals.

The proposed cuts came during the debate of a record defence authorisation bill of \$302 billion for 1986. Mr Reagan has reluctantly approved the figure although he originally sought a 5.9 per cent increase after inflation. The Senate limits its spending to increases in the inflation rate.

The Senate rejected five attempts to trim Mr Reagan's original Strategic Defence Initiative proposal to spend \$3.7 billion, which the Senate Armed Services Committee subsequently reduced to \$2.9 billion. The House is expected to discuss defence spending next week. The Armed Services Committee figure for Star Wars is slightly less than that of the Senate's \$2.5 billion so the eventual price tag will probably range somewhere between the two.

Senate debate of the defence bill also became embroiled in discussions of Salt II. Several senators including Mr Bumpers and Mr John Heinz wanted to put forward a non-binding resolution calling on the Administration to abide by the treaty so long as the Soviet Union did the same. The resolution would also require a presidential report on the state of the treaty.

● Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"

Resignation threatened by Craxi

Rome: The Prime Minister, Mr Bettino Craxi, said yesterday that he would resign next week if Italians voted for a referendum, sponsored by the opposition Communists, which seeks to reverse a wages curb imposed last year.

Approval of the plebiscite on Sunday and Monday would cause "a social conflict of vast proportions" and seriously damage the economy, Mr Craxi told a news conference. The Prime Minister was asked whether he would resign if a majority of the electorate voted to restore the scala mobile (sliding scale) wage indexation points scrapped by legislation last summer.

Yes, one minute later, he replied. Polling stations for the 45 million voters will be open all Sunday and on Monday. Provisional results are expected on Monday afternoon, with the final figures due on Tuesday.

Mr Craxi said he confidently expected voters to reject the proposal, a move which political commentators said was partly based on a split within the trade union movement over the wage indexation issue.

Mr Craxi said that far more was at stake than the 18,000 lire (£7.50) a month which the Government took from the salaries of about 20 million workers as an anti-inflationary measure. He described the plebiscite as a Communist assault on the entire economic policy of his five-party centrist Government. —Reuter.

Papandreu draws Thatcher's wrath

From George Coals in Athens

The Greek ambassador in London is expected to be summoned by the Foreign Office to explain deprecatory remarks that his country's Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, made about Thatcherism in a pre-election rally last week.

It appears that the Foreign Office considers Mr Papandreu overstepped the bounds of diplomatic propriety at a large rally in central Athens on Friday. At one point the Socialist leader likened the economic proposals of his conservative opponent, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, to those of Mrs Thatcher saying "a Thatcherite policy will only work in a police state."

He also characterised Mrs Thatcher's policies as "repression", adding that under Thatcherism "even the trade union leadership is phoney."

During his first term in office Mr Papandreu repeatedly used "Thatcherism" as an example of monetarism with an inhuman face, against which he contrasted his own government's economic policy.

The Foreign Office yesterday confirmed that the text of Mr Papandreu's speech was being studied, but declined to comment further.

Mr Papandreu, who was sworn in yesterday as Prime Minister, said later that his new government's priority will be to reactivate the economy. A key element of the government's programme would be to improve productivity. "We hope to reach 2.5 per cent

increase in growth soon," he said, "and 5 per cent at the end of our four-year period in government."

Mr Papandreu said that his government still intended to close down four American military bases in Greece when their operating agreement comes up for renewal in 1988, but he hoped the "Climate of Greek-American relations" would improve during the Socialist's second four-year term.

Following his electoral victory on Sunday, Mr Papandreu received a warm and polite telegram of congratulations from President Mitsotakis. He said that he had replied in a similar manner.

"Our policy towards the United States has not been negative, but problems like Cyprus, the Aegean, Turkey and Nato's way of handling these problems are the reason why relations have been so bad. But," he added, "there are good intentions on our part."

For the rest of the press conference Mr Papandreu indicated that his new government would continue with the policies of the old. Relations with Turkey could improve, he said, if the Turks removed their troops from Cyprus and observed the legal status agreed by treaty in the Aegean.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Yiannis Haralambopoulos, said that the new government's programme would be to improve productivity. "We hope to reach 2.5 per cent

Unquietly flows the Ob, along official lines

From Martin Walker in Moscow

THE SOVIET UNION is to proceed with its vast and controversial plan to divert Siberian river waters from the Arctic Ocean to the dry lands of the south.

"The only environmental check will be local there will be no global effect," the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, Mr Nikolai Vasiliev, said here yesterday.

Six per cent of the River Ob water is to be channelled almost 1,500 miles to the south, along a new canal. The water will irrigate the new farmland areas of Kazakhstan, and make up for the over-exploitation of water resources in the region.

The Aral Sea, which is fed by only two rivers, both of them heavily exploited for irrigation, has fallen by 35 feet since irrigation schemes began 30 years ago, Mr Vasiliev said.

● Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"

Agca down to earth

Rome: The Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca, yesterday cooperated with the court trying him and seven others alleged to be involved in a conspiracy to kill the Pope.

Last week, Agca told the court he was Jesus Christ and refused to answer questions. Yesterday he answered most of the questions from the presiding judge describing his life in Turkey and the purchase of weapons in Europe.

Agca said he did not recognise a photograph of a Turk arrested in Holland during the Pope's visit there last month with a gun from the same batch as that which Agca used to shoot the Pope.

The court was trying to find out if the man, who identified himself as Aslan Samet, might be Orak Celik, alleged by the prosecution to have shot Agca in shooting at the Pope.

● Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"

Caution on deterrent

Bonn: West Germany responded cautiously yesterday to signals that France may expand its nuclear deterrent to cover Western Europe, stressing there is no foreseeable replacement for the US nuclear umbrella.

Official sources said that Bonn welcomed in principle any move by Paris to strengthen its role in the defence of Western Europe.

They were reacting to a statement on Tuesday by Mr Jacques Huntingner, international secretary of France's ruling Socialists, who said that his party was considering a wider role for the French nuclear deterrent in the defence of Western Europe.

Under present doctrine, French nuclear missiles, bombers, and submarines are intended primarily as a national defence force, independent of Nato's integrated military command. This provides for the possible use of French nuclear weapons beyond the defence of French territory if the President decides the unspecified "vital interests" are at stake.

US fights France for grain markets

From Michael White in Washington

The Reagan Administration has picked on France as the first target of its new campaign to win back agricultural export markets, lost to the European Community. It has begun a programme of commodity bonuses to tempt foreign buyers.

On the eve of his visit to Europe for the World Food Conference, the Agriculture Secretary, Mr John Block, announced that he was offering up to a million metric tons of grain to Algeria, where the US share of the wheat market has fallen largely to France's advantage—from 41 per cent to 18 per cent since 1979-80.

Although presented as a firm sale in the US press, the grain has only been offered to Algeria, and yesterday no details were available as to how much it would cost for or how big the bonus of additional "free" grain would have to be. "It is up to the exporters bidding against each other in the bidding process to tell us how much bonus they would need to make a commercial sale," a department spokesman said.

Unofficial calculations suggested that to raise the \$117 million that Mr Block seeks in additional sales, dealers would have to offer about 175,000 tons of bonus wheat to sweeten a sale of 325,000 tons at the current world price of \$117 a ton compared with the US price of \$142 a ton.

The plan to spend \$2 billion over three years on bonuses has been produced under congressional pressure and in response to what US farmers see as unfair export subsidies which have won agricultural markets from the US.

Mr Block has rejected a broad approach aimed chiefly at increasing volume sales and sought specific targets of which wheat to Algeria is the first. The idea is that each bonus-supported sale must be "additional" to what US exporters would have achieved anyway. The EEC and France in particular are the privately acknowledged offenders. The US seeks to retaliate against them with immediate reaction from EEC officials here, but Mr Block is due to meet his French opposite number, Mr Henry Nallet, in Paris on Sunday.

Reuter adds from Brussels: European Community experts were yesterday considering whether to take action over the controversial plan, spokesmen for the executive commission said.

He said the Community was checking the plan's details to see if it was consistent with internationally-agreed trade rules.

In Paris, French wheat dealers reacted angrily to the announcement.

The decision, "constituted a practice totally against the rules of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," said Mr Jean Moulias, the director-general of the National Cereals Office.

Aid likely for contras

From Alex Brummer in Washington

President Reagan yesterday rejoined the battle to win congressional aid for the contras by riding the Sandinista leader, Mr Daniel Ortega, accusing Moscow of financing Communist rule in Nicaragua.

His assault in Oklahoma City came as the House of Representatives was debating the aid to the next two years. The Senate majority leader, Mr Robert Dole (Republican) predicted that the \$32 million bill in the Republican-controlled Senate would win an easy passage.

The latest request for contra aid is given a far better chance than the attempt in April. Since then the Nicaraguan Congress, Mr Ortega, has given the aid to the Nicaraguan counter-attacks.

The contras have driven them outside their borders into Honduras and Costa Rica.

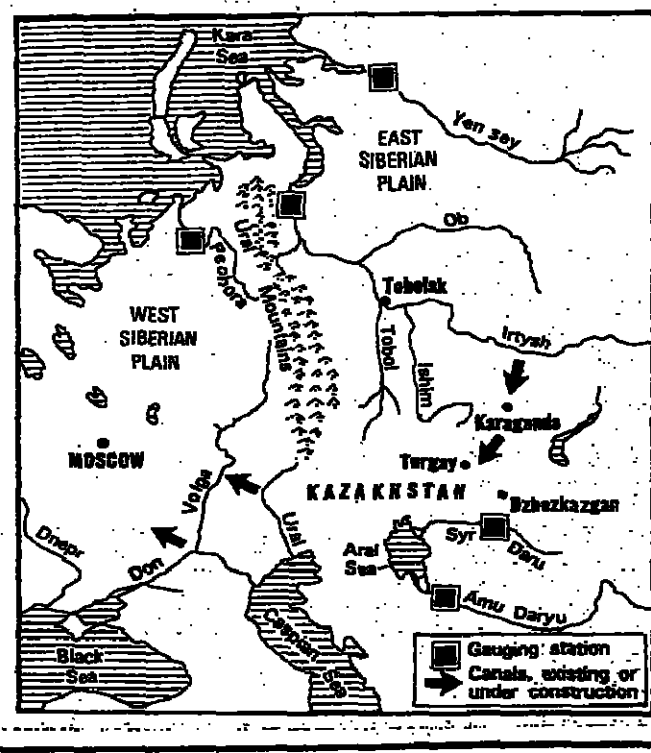
The border raids have raised concern in the US of the chance of eventual American military involvement in Nicaragua. The New York Times says that in interviews with US military and foreign experts in the region, the discussion of potential military involvement has become commonplace.

The report says that the Administration has decided on a number of triggers for direct military operations against the Sandinistas. These are said to include the acquisition of advanced military planes by the Sandinistas and any attempt to establish a military base in the country for the use of the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan knows that the Democrats felt betrayed by Mr Ortega's visit to Moscow soon after the congressional vote against supplying aid to the rebels.

Tony Jenkins adds from Managua: Mr Ortega has claimed to have this country. The warning came as Sandinista troops continued to fight close to the Costa Rican border.

● Kujau: "attempt to enrich himself"



Sri Lanka violence leaves 80 dead and homes on fire

Troops 'back mob attack' on Tamil communities

New Delhi: Sinhalese mobs, backed by security forces, attacked more than a dozen Tamil villages in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 80 people and burning more than 600 homes, United News of India reported yesterday.

The raids took place on Tuesday near the port city of Trincomalee in the eastern province. Eleven Tamil villages were burned down, while three others were partially destroyed, reports reaching the capital, Colombo, said.

More than 6,000 people left homeless took shelter in schools, temples and churches, the news agency said. About 1,000 people fled into the jungle.

The report quoted Tamil sources in Trincomalee as saying that the attacks were carried out by armed Sinhalese mobs backed by government security forces. Many of the assaults reportedly carried government-issued guns.

The government issued firearms to Sinhalese civilians following attacks in the area by Tamil separatist guerrillas. There have been a series of recent attacks and counter-attacks on Tamil and Sinhalese villages in the Trincomalee area.

The report quoted security officials in Colombo as saying they had no new reports of violence from the area.

Bus services between Colombo and the northern Jaffna peninsula, heartland of the Tamil minority, were suspended after a mob of about 500 Sinhalese attacked passengers near the Buddhist holy city of Anuradhapura on Tuesday, UN reported. Army troops opened fire to disperse the mob, but the number of casualties was not immediately known.

The Trincomalee district has been the centre of violence in recent days involving Tamil separatist guerrillas, security

forces and Sinhalese and Tamil civilians.

David Pallister adds from Colombo: The Sri Lankan Government announced yesterday that it will introduce a new anti-terrorist bill based on a recent Indian legislation which provides for the death penalty for acts of terrorist murder. If India agrees to reciprocate, there are also plans to include an offence of planning or committing an act of terrorism in a foreign country.

Coming so soon after President Jayawardene's summit with Mr Gandhi in New Delhi, the proposal is interpreted in Colombo as an attempt to put more pressure on the Indian Government to use its new law against the Tamil guerrillas based in southern India.

Sri Lanka already has the death penalty although it has not been used since 1977. Its Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the emergency regulations in force since 1983, have been described by the International Commission of Jurists as extraordinarily wide.

"No legislation conferring even remotely comparable powers is in force in any other free democracy operating under the rule of law," a report by the commission said. It provides for a maximum detention of up to 18 months and trial without preliminary inquiry, before a judge.

The emergency regulations give the executive power to arrest and detain suspects without charge, to prohibit political parties and to ban publications, all of which have been used.

Officials said security forces killed 18 Tamil guerrillas on Tuesday after destroying two boats in which they were travelling near Madagal on the north coast.

In northern Mullativu, three guerrillas were killed after their vehicle was ambushed by soldiers. Three Sinhalese were also killed by guerrillas in the Trincomalee area, officials said.

Afghan guerrillas hit on two fronts

Islamabad: Soviet and Afghan troops have advanced on two fronts against newly-armed Muslim rebels in south-west Afghanistan, guerrilla sources said yesterday.

"The Soviets rarely fought in the area before because the Mojahedin (Islamic guerrillas) were too busy fighting each other," one source said.

Columns of armoured vehicles, some from Shindand to the north-west and others from Kandahar to the south-east, have attacked strongholds in the northern part of Helmand province, the Quetta-based sources said.

The pincer movement, the biggest seen in the area for at least three years, began two weeks ago, they said. Unconfirmed accounts said it involved up to 1,000 vehicles and dozens of helicopters and fighter bombers.

Communist thrusts around Musa Qala, Naurad, Sangin and Tumba—all villages about 50

miles north-west of Kandahar—were mainly in retaliation for guerrilla attacks staged on a large scale last year in the south-east. The guerrillas had been attacking the Soviet army on the Sikh shrine.

One year ago, the temple was the scene of a bloody battle between troops and Sikh militants which left more than 2,000 people, including 500 troops, dead. But yesterday, the town of gunfire and the rumble of tanks seemed to be just a distant memory.

The main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, had earlier announced plans to observe the first week of June as "Genocide week". It has not held any public rallies or demonstrations, and has limited itself to organising prayers inside the Sikh temple to the memory of those killed during the army's operation.

Loudspeakers blared a non-stop chant of prayers and religious songs at the Golden Temple, but there were not many people at the shrine to

Hong Kong fearful of its new masters

From Brian Eads in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's anxiety about its uncertain future is undiminished. The Sino-British accord, under which in 1997 it becomes a special administrative region of China, the reassuring noises from Peking and London, and even the new chumminess between Mrs Thatcher and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, have failed to end the doubts.

China's guarantees on maintaining the territory's economic and social freedoms, while doubtless sincere, are seen in the context of the U-turns and periodic turmoil that have characterised its recent history. Many people have first-hand experience of the Communist's broken promises and the capriciousness of their politics. Many already see Peking's hand lying menacingly on Hong Kong's shoulder.

Hard on the heels of China's drive against "spiritual pollution", Hong Kong is engaged in an anti-pornography drive. One editor has been gaoled for two years — an unprecedented sentence. Moves have begun to abolish the jury system for "commercial crimes" and to outlaw public and press criticism of the Legislative Council. Even the government decision not to build a museum of history and science is thought to have been prompted by fear of offending Peking's anti-colonial sensibilities.

This creeping erosion of freedoms, the questions left unanswered by the joint accord, what role Hong Kong will have in formulating and interpreting its basic law, what role the People's Liberation Army will play in post-1997 internal security — have all fed the anxiety. The main question remains unanswered:

"What happens if Deng Xiaoping dies tomorrow?"

Chilling evidence of the fears was provided recently by the public burning of 42 boxes of letters offering views on the 1997 accord. The original plan of the government assessment office was to preserve them

years that the accord was being hammered out. There is less of a sense of urgency now, but rather as Chinese Christians say prayers to the kitchen god at lunar new year, people want to keep their options open.

Canada, Australia, and the United States are the favoured destinations. Between them they will admit about 22,000 people this year. But apart from a few thousand "investor immigrants" welcomed by Canada and Australia, most will be family reunions.

But scores of other deals are on offer, and while the prices are not cheap (they do average the \$450,000 that Canberra looks for in its business migrants).

Within three months, according to one agent, an Argentine passport could be had for \$US15,000. Similar offers come from throughout South and

Central America, notably Ecuador, Guatemala, and Paraguay, which has set up something called "the Paraguay Cultural Association" in Hong Kong to process applications.

Last week, the Colombian Foreign Minister, Mr Augusto Ramirez Osampos, arrived with the news that passports would be available for people making "significant" long-term investments or bank deposits in his country.

Fiji and Vanuatu are available South Pacific destinations, and an Indonesian passport is to be had for \$US10,000.

There are pitfalls. The Hong Kong Commercial Crimes Bureau and officials of the Dominican Republic are looking into the activities of one man who was an official here. Disgruntled clients assert that he promised passports in return for investments. The passports never materialised and the man vanished.



Arm-in-arm: President Zia of Pakistan (left) embraces General Ershad of Bangladesh on arrival yesterday in Dhaka. President Zia, making his first visit to Bangladesh, was due to meet survivors of the recent cyclone disaster

All quiet as Sikhs mark temple assault

Uneasy calm in Amritsar where Hindus fear terrorists will strike back

From Ajay Bose in Amritsar

Uncertain calm reigned at the Golden Temple here yesterday on the first anniversary of the assault by the Indian army on the Sikh shrine.

One year ago, the temple was the scene of a bloody battle between troops and Sikh militants which left more than 2,000 people, including 500 troops, dead. But yesterday, the town of gunfire and the rumble of tanks seemed to be just a distant memory.

The main Sikh party, the Akali Dal, had earlier announced plans to observe the first week of June as "Genocide week". It has not held any public rallies or demonstrations, and has limited itself to organising prayers inside the Sikh temple to the memory of those killed during the army's operation.

Loudspeakers blared a non-stop chant of prayers and religious songs at the Golden Temple, but there were not many people at the shrine to

listen to them. The much feared terrorist offensive—expected to coincide with the first anniversary of the army's assault—has also failed to materialise so far except for isolated bomb blasts.

Beneath the surface calm, however, a general uncertainty is clearly discernible among Sikhs and Hindus here, although the Sikhs have got over their initial shock and anguish at the desecration of their holiest shrine. The scars of the army's assault compounded by the anti-Sikh riots in November are too deep to heal quickly.

At the Golden Temple yesterday Baba Joginder Singh, the 83-year-old father of the Sikh separatist, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala, who was killed, and leader of the extremist faction of the Akali Dal, asked how the scars could heal if the Government insists on reopening them every day.

The Baba scoffed at a suggestion that the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was sincere in his efforts to bring peace in Punjab and claimed that almost every day fresh atrocities were being committed against the Sikhs.

He claimed that a group of Sikh pilgrims, on their way to the Golden Temple from a neighbouring state, was attacked by the police who robbed them and molested their women.

The Baba's view is not an isolated extremist opinion but is reflected by the majority of Sikhs here who blame the Government for both police harassment of their community as well as terrorist attacks.

The most bitter are the people who personally suffered during the army's operation. Narinderjit Singh, an employee of the temple's information office, recounted his "suffering at the hands of the troops."

"One year ago, I was dragged out of my bedroom by soldiers who repeatedly kicked me with their boots although I pleaded

S. Africa threatens to expel blacks

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Louis Nel, has threatened to expel the 1 million foreign blacks living here illegally if the US presses ahead with legislation for economic sanctions against South Africa. It includes an immediate ban on loans to the Government and on the sale of computers to government agencies administering apartheid.

But Professor John Barratt of the Institute of International Affairs commented yesterday, "It is doubtful whether the Government can do more than it already does to prevent unauthorised entry of blacks from neighbouring states and to repatriate them if they enter unlawfully."

Mr Nel's threat was made at a political meeting in the Cape on the eve of the approval by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee of a bill proposing sanctions against South Africa. It includes an immediate ban on loans to the Government and on the sale of computers to government agencies administering apartheid.

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Cairo halt for Gandhi

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

The Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived here yesterday on the first stage of a five-country tour and went straight into talks with President Hosni Mubarak designed to revive efforts to end the Gulf War.

The newspaper, Al-Ahram, said that the Egyptian Prime Minister, Mr Hosni Mubarak, was unusually placed to mediate in the four-and-a-half-year conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Mr Gandhi, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Egypt for 15 years, was taken to President Mubarak's formal residence in Cairo's northern suburb of a heavily guarded mosque. Egyptian security is taking no chances against Sikh extremist threats against Mr Gandhi's life.

Egypt has put forward a Gulf peace plan which envisages a ceasefire and the stationing of a multinational force between the warring states. The Egyptians say that both countries should agree to respect the border demarcations agreed by the late Shah of Iran and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in 1975.

Mr Gandhi said he would discuss "some ideas which could help and this ghastly could be a terrible war."

Iran warplanes yesterday raided two Iranian cities, and Baghdad warned that it would intensify attacks until Iran accepts negotiations to end the Gulf war.

Iran said that its warplanes hit Tehran in a pre-dawn raid which Iran's national news agency, Irna, said left two people dead and five injured.

Beirut toll passes 500

Beirut: Shi'ite Muslim forces exchanged sniper fire with Palestinian guerrillas in the encircled refugee camps yesterday after sporadic artillery barrages and night-long machine-gun duels.

Police said four people were wounded, the lowest nightly casualty toll and the first without fatalities since the war for control of the camps began in West Beirut on May 19. Police say at least 513 people have been killed and 2,105 wounded in that time.

The violence began when Shi'ites attacked the camps to prevent the Palestinians from rebuilding the power base they won in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself "the Islamic Republic Organisation" has claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on President Amin Gemayel's palace last week.

President Gemayel yesterday called in the diplomatic envoys of the United States, France and the Soviet Union, Britain, and China for separate meetings at the palace.

He asked the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council to pressure Israel to withdraw militiamen of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army from the Christian town of Jezzine in southern Lebanon.

President Gemayel's administration fears that Muslim forces besieging Jezzine will force a showdown if the SLA stays in the town after the Israeli army completes its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Jezzine has been swarmed by an estimated 40,000 Christian refugees who fled from Druze and Muslim forces. — AP

Three-year entanglement in the Land of the Cedars

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

AS THE last of Israel's amateur troops come home across the country's northern border, the Government is watching with quiet satisfaction as the fighting between Shi'ites and Palestinians in the camps around Beirut appears to be helping to finish the job it set out to do when it invaded Lebanon three years ago today.

In a part of the world that thrives on a belief in conspiracies and hidden hands directing others from afar, many people find it hard to believe that Israel is not involved somehow in the violent convulsions shaking Beirut and that are threatening to wipe out the remaining traces of the Palestinian presence in the Lebanese capital.

But if Israeli statements are to be taken at face value, the Mossad intelligence agents who built up the relationship with the Christians of Lebanon from the mid-1970s until the assassination of Bashir Gemayel in September, 1982, are now out of work, or at least busy cultivating new allies to suit the ever-shifting realities of the Land of the Cedars.

For Israel, the Lebanese wheel has turned full circle. What more fitting epitaph could there be for its relationship with the Christian Phalange than the fact that Zvi Hobeika, perpetrator of the 1982 refugee camp massacres and the newly-elected commander of the Lebanese

slight against the Palestinians. Palestinian claims to the contrary, there is no known agreement between Israel and Amal about the control of the south. Nor, it seems, can there be such an agreement so long as Israel continues to depend on the largely Christian South Lebanese Army in the border security zone.

There are signs, however, of increasing Israeli disenchantment with the SLA and doubts — fuelled by incidents like last week's desecration of a whole Shi'ite cemetery — as to whether it is the right card to play. Unfulfilled peace-keeping forces plus Amal, some Israeli intelligence personnel are now suggesting, might turn out to be a better deal.

Views from Jerusalem today's battles for the Beirut camps look like a prelude to the future struggle for the old PLO strongholds in Sidon and Tyre whose destruction was the ostensible goal of "Operation Peace for Galilee" when the war began. There can be no doubt who the Israelis are rooting for.

But taking the measure of Israel's future policy in Lebanon is not easy: like the US, Israel's reluctance to get involved again is based on the pain of badly-burned fingers and deep domestic controversy and an army sobered by the experience of a war unlike any other in its history.

What matters for Israel is the resurgent Shi'ite Amal movement, fresh from its victory over the much-hated resistance to Israel's "iron fist" in the occupied south and now, with Syrian help, proving its mettle, power and independence in the on-

slight against the Palestinians. Palestinian claims to the contrary, there is no known agreement between Israel and Amal about the control of the south. Nor, it seems, can there be such an agreement so long as Israel continues to depend on the largely Christian South Lebanese Army in the border security zone.

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US, Israel disagree over peace moves

From our own Correspondent in Jerusalem

The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, said yesterday that Israel and the United States disagree about which Palestinians should take part in Middle East peace talks. He warned, however, that the Government should not reject American overtures out of hand.

Mr Peres, the Labour Party leader, succeeded in winning his party's support for continued contacts with the US on this issue. He asked his colleagues to refrain from any dealings with the PLO.

It was this decision not to have any contacts with the PLO that had been responsible for the change in Jordan's position and its readiness to take part in talks with the Palestinians, the Prime Minister said.

A number of Israeli Labour MPs have been invited to a meeting with PLO officials in Holland next month.

Mr Peres reiterated that Israel would not negotiate with anyone supporting the PLO's national covenant, which calls for the replacement of Israel by a Palestinian state. That included members of the PLO's executive committee.

Mr Peres said that Israel had been too optimistic in his assessment of the change in the Jordanian and Palestinian positions. The official noted that Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, had not expressed support for UN resolutions which supported Israel's right to peace and security.

Patrick Kenley adds: Speaking at a press conference in London yesterday Mr Shamir, at the end of a three-day official visit, said that Mrs Thatcher and he disagreed about the role of Palestinians in the peace process.

The ideal formula for the next negotiations, Mr Shamir said, would be to have Jordan and Israel present, but no Palestinians.

There is great damage being done to the quality of its water," the authority's director, Yehzekiel Zechal said. Fuel leaking from motor boats pollutes the water, he said, and "many vacationers use (it) as a bathroom." — Reuter.

Zulu chief sets terms

By Susan Tiributti

Chief Gatsha Buthelezile, the leader of the KwaZulu bantustan, said yesterday that the South African government would have to commit itself publicly to a written declaration of intent on power-sharing for blacks and whites before he and other black leaders would take part in negotiations.

He issued a draft declaration which he said was "no more than a rough idea" of what he had in mind, mostly concerned with power-sharing in such a way that no group could dictate to any other group how to express its own self determination.

The final declaration, to be co-signed by blacks and the state president, should be authorised by the state president, Chief Buthelezile said. He was speaking at a two-day private conference on international business interests in South Africa at the Hilton Hotel in London organised by Business International.

The South African Minister for Cooperation and Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen and the British Foreign Office minister, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, are to address the conference today.

Chief Buthelezile's draft declaration was written in response to criticism of him by members of the South African Government.

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Kim Blake, an unemployed graduate, wrote a letter to the Guardian which was immediately taken up by readers. She was then interviewed by Terry Coleman, and his article produced a still stronger reaction. Here Kim Blake elaborates on her thoughts about coping with unemployment, untrammelled by an interviewer's interpretations.

If you accept that continually chasing non-existent jobs is harming you, and that by not doing it you can be a healthier and happier person, then you can start to respect and value yourself again.

THE long-term unemployed are officially those who have been without work for two years or more. I know people who have not worked for five, six, in some cases eight or ten years.

One I spoke to recently left school at 18: he is now 21 and has never had a job lasting more than three or four months — and only four of those. He has been on two government training schemes and is now disillusioned, bitter, and very, very poor. Yet he is not stupid — far from it — or lazy, or a scrounger, or any of the other labels so freely applied by those who never having suffered themselves, have no understanding of the suffering of others.

The effects of unemployment are not known only to those who suffer them directly: they are known also to the parents who see their children's hopes and dreams for the future crushed; to men and women who see their relationships cracking under unforeseen financial stress and the depression and frustration of their partners, which they are powerless to relieve; and to children who learn to dread Christmas and birthdays because of the added pressure put on those who must find the extra money for presents.

The material deprivation of unemployment is bad enough, but the largely unseen, because statistically unmeasurable, damage in terms of people's mental and emotional health is far worse. Not having the money to go to the pub, or for a curry with a group of friends, does not just mean going without a drink, or not eating out: it effectively means that you see

less of other people, since most social activities are dependant on some financial outlay.

Communication with people who do have a job can become increasingly difficult. You can become isolated even within a marriage: many couples are discovering the hard way that spending twenty-four hours a day with a loved one is not without its problems. Tiny squabbles get magnified out of all proportion, causing yet more stress.

In addition, you are ignored by those at least partly responsible for your condition — the government. Nobody in power has shown any compassion (with the honourable exception of Francis Pym and his splinter group to whom all praise) or any understanding of the problems engendered by giving so much leisure time to people who are totally unprepared, either materially or more importantly psychologically, to deal with it. On the contrary, the unemployed appear to be regarded by those in power as wastrels and dole scroungers; we are told to "get on our bikes" — I wonder if Mr Tebbit has any idea how much a bicycle costs these days.

We are told that if we try hard enough we will find a job; and for a few it is probably true. What of the others? Many have in desperation taken very lowly paid jobs (something else that the government encourages) which, although removing the stigma of scrounger, keep them firmly in the poverty trap and do little to heal the feelings of bitterness and resentment that are the true legacy of monetarism.



picture by Neil Libbert

Of course there are people who do not want to work — they have always existed and they have usually been punished with disproportionate severity by the society into which they do not, or cannot, fit; but there are very few people who want to do nothing. An unwillingness to work often means an unwillingness to slave for forty years at a hated job for the sake of a meagre pension, though perhaps not for much longer, as so many of our parents did and do.

You can of course keep bashing your head against the Job Centre wall: keep applying for jobs, keep getting rejected. Apply again, with that much less confidence in your own abilities than you had the last time: the DHSS like you to keep the rejection slips so that they know that you really have been trying, but who wants to keep scores of pieces of paper that say, in effect, "you are a failure — you are not wanted"? Eventually you become an automaton, frustrated at your own impotence, cynical about the future, without hope or self-respect or any other thoughts than how to pay the bills, buy clothes for

the kids (and yourself), and survive the coming week.

The most vulnerable turn to forms of escapism, some more damaging than others — in all the fuss and media outrage over the heroin problem, no one except the director of Shelter has publicly questioned the reasons for it. It makes some sort of sense to me; heroin makes life appear much kinder and without any troubles. An all-party committee headed by Sir Edward Gardner consider heroin to be the most serious peace-time threat to our national well-being. I consider it to be a symptom thereof, rather than the thing itself.

Yet there is an alternative. By refusing to accept the "work ethic", which is not the same thing as "a day's work for a day's pay" which measures a person's total worth in terms of whether or not he or she works at all you can stop the rot. If you accept that continually chasing non-existent jobs is harming you, and that by not doing it you can be a healthier and happier person — and have time to devote to whatever it is you would really like to do, be it brewing homemade beer, or reading, or gardening, or

learning judo — then you can start to respect and value yourself again. You can truthfully tell yourself that it is not your fault that you do not have a job; you have tried and it did not work out. That too is not your fault.

I do not believe, as Terry Coleman implied, in "an inalienable right to happiness, to be fulfilled by a collectivist state," nor do I consider that the State owes me a living. As I thought he had understood, I was trying to elaborate on a much more subtle concept: that if this State takes away any reasonable chance of paid employment, it must not then rob the needy and the vulnerable of any chance to pursue alternative methods of survival, or penalise them for that pursuit.

When I came to consider myself as not ultimately culpable, I had the most enormous sense of relief, or a load sliding from my shoulders. Of course this did not happen overnight, and I still occasionally suffer from a guilt complex. Overall though, the benefits have been so great that only someone who has been through it themselves will fully understand what I mean. I do not see myself as a

scrounger; I am using what I have, which is some sort of ability to communicate, to try to write novels. If it all works out I will have a career ahead of me; and it will be doing something that I always wanted to do. If it does not I will try something else. Whatever, I will have learnt a lot about myself and about my environment. These days I am actually interested in and enjoy living.

I am lucky in wanting to write because it requires little outlay. I have an ancient borrowed typewriter and a flat. Suppose however that I had a liking and talent for photography; I would not be able to afford a camera, or the various bits and pieces necessary for developing and printing. Yet I might, given a little capital, be able to make a living through it. Even if I could not, I would still be a better, more content and fulfilled person. (The Enterprise Grant system, while going some way to meet such needs, is still far too narrow in what it considers worthy of a grant; plus, in order to qualify, you need a thousand pounds starting capital.)

This may seem as though I am offering some sort of panacea; of course I do not imagine that it will solve every problem or rebuild every shattered personality. Nevertheless, it would enable people to function more successfully within the community. The money to provide an adequate standard of living for all could, in a more sane political environment, be found quite easily and with little additional burden on the taxpayer (which category includes, as I am sure readers are aware, those of us drawing state benefits). The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health, and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at 17 billion dollars a year. It is a huge sum of money... about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks. (New Internationalist).

The government cannot have it both ways. If they pursue policies which result in mass unemployment, they have a moral obligation not to turn their backs on the disadvantaged but to do all in their power to help such people. That means, at the very least, not taking money away from them; and it should mean giving much more, in terms

both of hard cash and, just as importantly, of understanding.

Measures such as those taken recently, by which thousands of young people are denied in effect a place to live (surely one of the most basic of human rights) have alarming overtones of Victorian reality — remember Jo in Bleak House, constantly told to move on without anyone, least of all himself, having any idea as to exactly where he was to go? Personally, I do not think it inconsequential that by these measures such people are also effectively disenfranchised, but I may just be getting paranoid. Although in the light of the proposed poll tax, perhaps not.

The last thing that the Britain of the 1980s needs is a government without understanding, without vision, and without even the most superficial regard for large sections of its populace: perhaps these deficiencies are not surprising, bearing in mind their attitudes to conservation, pollution, and other major issues; but that does not make them any the less obscene.

In the pages of this newspaper recently, it was said that I am without hope. This is not true. I have immense faith in and hope for all of us living in this country, given an environment in which so many of us are not forced to scrounge squallidly for the basics of existence. I have, however, no hope for the people of Britain while we are led by those who, themselves in thrall to morally bankrupt policies, care apparently for nothing but the preservation of the status quo.

APPOINTMENTS Science and Technology □ Computing □ General □

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Appointments continue on page 16

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GUARDIAN WOMEN

Pictures by Frank Martin

'When I design a swimsuit I am not actually trying to make someone look sexy,' says Liza Bruce, 'I am trying to make them look witty.' Brenda Polan went to talk to her

So long as the octopus giggles

MOST British women, their swimsuitable days severely rationed, tend to regard the garment in a purely practical way. It should be inexpensive, as brief as one's shape and the prejudices of the local police force will permit and anything but daintily fashionable. It should, after all, given the limited duration of its annual exposure to sun and sea, last several years. The women of other nations are not so puritanical in their approach. They actually maintain and regularly replenish whole wardrobes of swimwear.

This idea only remains shocking so long as you have not worked your increasingly covetous way along a rack of one-piece swimsuits and assorted tops and bottoms designed by Liza Bruce. For although Liza firmly believes that swimwear has nothing to do with fashion, her swimsuits (as you have to be aware if you have scanned a single glossy magazine this summer) are currently just about the hottest fashion tip there is.

To start with, the colours sizzle – fluorescent orange, shocking pink, lime, scarlet, yellow – in a way which makes you ache to feel the sun on your skin. Secondly, the fabric is a new bubbly-textured mixture of nylon and Lycra which was invented by the textile designer, Rosemary Moore, and patented as Maxam. It is enormously stretchy and, therefore, although it fits as snug as a second skin, it is comfortable and uncorseting to wear. But, most importantly, it is not designed to conform, like say a leotard, to your body's silhouette or sun-goddess self. It has a strong visual appeal; it is designed with wit, humour and a sense of mischief. The beach, after all, is not a serious place.

Liza was not trained as a designer. She started by making clothes for herself which were admired and envied by her friends. She specialised in swimwear because, having been invited to spend a month in Mustique, she discovered that she disliked everything in the swimwear departments of London. So she ran up a few silk swimsuits ("Silk feels so good next to the body and it is so light and cool") which were extravagantly admired by the island's jet-set holiday-makers.

Since many of these were women rich enough to have their pick of the world's designer goodies, Liza reckoned that she might just have the basis for a successful business. "If I had known then what I know now..." she says reiterating the sentiment which tends to fall from the lips of everyone who has built up their own business on a basis of a great idea, blissful ignorance, endless optimism and iron determination.

It was not easy of course, but Liza had one enormous advantage: a dual European/American upbringing which has

permitted her to recognise what is valuable in both cultures and to exploit it. "In Britain there is a climate which encourages individuality and creativity; London is a city where people are doing things they think are really interesting, doing them almost for their own sake. But they are a bit cut off, living in their own world... and that's

what makes the work they are doing so interesting to everyone else in the world. It is a country bubbling with ideas no wonder, when people come here from other countries, they take away ideas. They take home a new clutch of ideas, "stolen," if you like, which they are better able to exploit than the originators."

Marketing is one of the American skills which Lisa rates highly. "Presentation is so important. It is something that you can tell your customers very clearly what you and your work are

about, you don't really deserve to sell it. For that you need a very clearly defined point of view. You know how it works with politicians: people prefer politicians they do not agree with so long as he/she has a consistent point of view, to politicians with whom they agree on many points but who seem inconsistent and dilatory.

"I think it is because most people live confused lives and are therefore attracted to clarity and certainty. It is reassuring. It is exactly the same with design."

She describes herself as an artistic person rather than one who is commercially minded. "I am not a business person but it is a challenge to make yourself do what you do not do well. I am also a very bad salesperson; I am the kind of person who sees things and thinks, 'I like this or does not. So the idea that other people can have their

minds made up for them by brilliant salesmanship was alien to me."

Liza Bruce swimwear sells well in America and throughout Europe. "One of the reasons I manufacture in Britain is so that I can sell to Europe," she says. "Another is that you can get a high quality product. There is no higher standard of manufacture than that of Marks and Spencer supplier and, at the prices my swimwear costs, because it's only like using extruded material, which are expensive. I insist that it is very well made. That's another difference between Europe and America. Europeans still expect things to last."

Another difference where she is sure the Europeans have got it right is in the two cultures' attitudes to sexuality. She abhors the kind of American Barbie-doll sexuality which has woman as its narcissistic — and humour-

less — object: "In Europe sexual attraction is more to do with personalities, with a kind of dynamism and self-awareness which attracts one person to another. When I design a swimsuit I am not actually trying to make someone look sexy: I am trying to make them look witty. For me humour is an essential ingredient of the British way."

Liza's fruitful collaboration with Rosemary Moore will continue as the two young women work together to develop ever more interesting fabrics for Liza to cut into ever more amusing shapes. "I don't sketch or use patterns," she says. "Rosemary's fabric comes in tubes and I merely set about it with a pair of scissors."

She is also working on brilliantly dyed scuba diver's fabric which should, next summer, be enough to make an octopus's eyes water. While it giggles, of course.



Above: Orange Mazoom (nylon/Lycra) rolled down bikini top and pink and yellow Mazoom (nylon/Lycra) rolled down bikini bottom, can be pulled up to make one-piece (also black, orange, grey) sizes s,m,l, £60 for set by Liberty, London, from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Way In, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Lilliput, Piccadilly Circus, SW1; Rosie, Cheltenham, A1, 1 February.
Knightsbridge: Joan Pontin, Birmingham; Hatam, Brighton; Hobby, Cardiff. Orange persepex bangles, £35 from a selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Wide orange persepex bangle, £40 by Bellini from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1. Blue persepex bangle, £29.95 by Bellini from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above centre: Red and orange Maxxam (nylon/Lycra) swimsuit and matching bandeau top (also red).
Black-yellow: Black-blue-red sizes sm l, £65 by Liz Bruce, stockists and accessory details as above.

Above right: Lime green Maxxam (nylon/Lycra) hooded bikini top (also orange, lemon, grapefruit) sizes s,m,l, £60 part of set, bikini bottom not shown. Red and black trim Maxxam (nylon/Lycra) bikini bottom (also grey) sizes s,m,l, £60 part of set with rolled down bikini top, not shown, both by Liza Bruce. Stockists and accessory details as above.

• Hair by Guy at Clifford Stafford, 7 Pavilion Road, SW1 (01-235 9462)

Photographed at Pennyhill Park Hotel, Bagshot, Surrey. courtesy of Prestige Hotels.

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The romance of the middle classes



Subverting the romance — Ronald Frame. Picture by Garry Weaver

DISILLUSION sits on his stories like a sick parrot on the shoulder. Maybe it set in early. Aged six, Ronald Frame was lost in the ice grotto of a Glasgow store's Santa Claus. Suddenly he found the old fraud, beard pushed up on forehead like some people wear shades, red gown unbuttoned to show string vest and flourishing chest with cigarette from mouth. Worse, one arm was inside the polar bear collecting box, scrambling for his fees. It could mark a child.

It is an autobiographical moment that occurs early in Frame's novel *Winter Journey*, which last summer won half of the first Betty Trask Award — the other half went to Clare Nonhebel for *Cold Showers*. And a chillier pair of titles is difficult to imagine for an award intended by Betty Trask, a romantic novelist, for a first novel by a writer under 35, and in the romantic or traditional mode — none of your experimental stuff. This

week, Frame publishes his second book, a collection of short stories called *Watching Mrs Gordon* (Bodley Head, £8.95).

Frame's novel was the account, seen through a 10-year-old girl's eyes, of a journey across Europe as her father, a diplomat and spy, quarrels endlessly and brutally with her mother, a free spender of money and sexual favours.

Like any self-respecting prize jury, the Trask panel split. Three wanted to give the whole prize to Nonhebel because they considered the Frame too bleak, too far from the Trask tradition. Two insisted that the Frame was the better book. So the prize was divided. The Nonhebel, still not taken up by a publisher by the time the prize was announced, has since come out from Century. This year's Trask Award will be announced on June 20, and three out of six on the short list there have still to find publishers.

Frame already has a track record with stories published

Ronald Frame won half of a major prize for romantic fiction. So why, asks Hugh Hebert, is his fiction so wary of romance?

in respectable magazines, some done on radio. *Winter Journey* has been adapted for broadcasting, and there is talk of doing it on television too.

Of good middle class Glasgow suburban stock, he went to the High School, where you were expected to turn into a doctor or lawyer, something socially useful. It left him with some residual guilt that he wanted none of those things, though after Glasgow University — first in English and research on the Victorian novel at Oxford, he did teach for a while.

His themes remain mostly middle class and middle aged anxieties, those havens of some young writers in un-

certain times. He talks of writing about "The truces people make with their consciences, their past, to make their lives more comfortable."

In one of Frame's stories, Palladian, a pompous popular, romantic novelist asks himself: "Why do I write about women?" Because they are more interesting. Because they have depths. They suffer. They're victims. The writer is being visited in Rome by a middle-aged woman who knew him as a girl, and who has recognised herself in one of the novelist's books — though he does not recognise her in this oddly uncommunicative fan, who has not even

brought him a copy of his novel to sign.

Many of Frame's stories are also told from a woman's viewpoint, and this one encapsulates other of his themes of disillusion: exorcising the past, or living in it, travel as a vicarious form of life, covert homosexuality as a form of betrayal. Elsewhere he reveals that Scottish obsession with quality that goes back to Hoggs and Stevenson. Frame talks about taking the components of a romantic fiction and applying them in a non-romantic story, using the genre, but I hope, subverting it on the way.

Some critics think his stories are like Ian McEwan's, though they seem to me closer to a scaled down version of William Trevor's studies of disengagement. Frame's score thumb characteristic is that at the affluent end of his middle class, his people seem obsessed with the life of the designer label — the mother in *Winter Journey* is the

prize winner always wearing her designer silk dresses, no the signature shoes, particularly concerned with clothes: "My mother's fashion vanity case," says the girl, and several hundred miles later in Venice: "My mother tried on shoes in a Gabrielli stockist, and then in Ferragamo."

Frame says he does not do this in a knowing way: "I do it to suggest an ambience, a feeling, a mood, a sense of what people can buy, what they can't. And I think that is true — yet the effect is still knowingness, about exotic things in exotic places. It recalls the east end of London, the East End, and his followers in the pretentious pop market. Maybe it is the characteristic that 'encompasses whatever is romantic' in Frame's fiction: the imagined feeling of a world in which money buys almost everything, but like the old song says, 'Can't buy me love.' And themes don't come much more romantic than that.

Martin Walker, in Moscow, on Hamlet the truck driver

Russia's great Dane

HAMLET's duel was over, the floor littered with corpses. The scene came the sound of marching feet and clanking metal as Fortinbras and his army reached Elsinore. The stage was entirely black. Then a massive column that had shaped the play suddenly swirled from the ceiling and pointed directly at the audience. And when Fortinbras shot, these hollow columns had become vast guns, and each cannon exploded with light as the sound of artillery fire roared around us.

In the audience we jerked as one man, as tightly crumpled as we into the narrow benches in the basement theatre that if you moved, your neighbour had to move too. But this was just the last in a series of moments in a high theatre which had infused the play's gaunt passions with sudden explosions of energy.

In a shipboard scene, a storm at sea was conjured from Hamlet's lurking from side to side and the alternate flashing of diagonals of light as the very universe pitched. In his duel with Laertes, the stage had gone dark again until all we saw were the sparks flaring from the clashing swords.

As curtain call followed curtain call, Sergei Yurski somehow fought his way to his feet in the next cramped row to roar out his applause. Perhaps the finest Hamlet the Soviet stage has seen in a generation, Yurski had made his name in Leningrad. Rumour had brought him to this tiny amateur theatre in the southern suburbs of Moscow.

In the interval I introduced myself to Yurski and asked what he thought of the production. "This young man playing Hamlet, Avilov — did you know he used to be a truck driver, a chauffeur? He's a born actor. I hope I was as good — but I don't know."

When the play ended and the flowers banded onto the stage, Yurski dragged me backstage with him, and he gave an impromptu speech to the company. "The most powerful, the most primal Hamlet I have ever seen," he told them.

You will not find the performances of the Theatre-Studio of the South-west listed in the Moscow papers, nor in the weekly listings of performances published by the state theatre agency. You cannot buy tickets for the theatre at the kiosks. Most of the company are amateurs. Indeed, there are only four full-time employees but the Theatre-Studio is consistently the most dramatic centre in Moscow.

These days the competition is hardly intense. Throughout the 1970s, the Taganka Theatre was the most innovative in Moscow, but then Visotsky, the Russian Bob Dylan figure who had made the place his spiritual home, died in 1980 and last year the inventive director Lyubimov went to Italy and decided to stay in the West.

It is not that the Theatre-Studio has filled the Taganka gap, so much as the enormous exuberance of the company and the way in which they turn their handicaps into strength.

Valery Belakovich, the founder and director of the theatre, is a burly powerful man in his mid-thirties, he founded the company twelve years ago as an amateur theatre working in schools while he was still a student at the prestigious Moscow State Theatre Institute. Seven years ago, they were given a permanent home in what was designed as the underground car park of a large block of flats way out on Lenin Avenue.

"We have no wings no flies — do that forced us to be inventive," said Belakovich. "We had to use lighting and music, instead of complex sets, because we had no options."

But their greatest asset is the talent they have found in the amateurs who make up the bulk of the company. Vadim Avilov, who played Hamlet, was such a distinction, is widely spoken of as the coming star of the Soviet theatre. He was recently offered the leading role in a joint Spanish-Russian television series on Don Quixote, but he turned it down, preferring to stay with the Theatre-Studio.

At first sight, he is startling, with bulging eyes over a great axe of a nose thrusting from a gaunt and haunted face. But once he begins to work, he can become the handsomest man in Moscow, moving his stick-like limbs with extraordinary grace. And when he needs money, he still drives a truck.

John Fordham on Stanley Jordan's Magic Touch and the other jazz releases

Double fret of the future

PEOPLE FEEL ambiguous about hype in jazz. On the one hand, everybody knows that hype is for getting the drop on you. On the other, it's so rarely applied to an uncommercial territory like jazz that a shot of it now and again becomes an invigorating form of affectionate attention, and to hell with the motives.

At this time of the year, many international jazz celebrities pass through on the round of European festivals, and many extravagant statements accompany them — but most are attached to artists who've been around long enough for the informed public to make up its own mind. Newcomers who arrive to a ticker-tape welcome, are more of a problem.

Stanley Jordan, *Magic Touch*, Blue Note (BT 85101). The first album by the Califor-



Stanley Jordan

nian guitarist who, at 25, is already receiving the kind of accolades from American pundits that recall the fan-fares Wynton Marsalis received. Jordan's technique is not merely a summation of an existing practice but a breakthrough that will enable him to make much bolder music than this if he chooses to — or is encouraged to. Producing notes by hammering the strings rather than plucking, Jordan is able to use both hands as fretting hands and thus produce remarkable contrapuntal effects like two guitarists at work. To demonstrate the scope of this extraordinary modus operandi, the guitarist adapts it to a modern classic blues like Freddie Freeloader, to the evergreen Round Midnight and also to material that guitarists always reduce to the effect like Eleanor Rigby and A Child Is Born.

Jordan's playing is me-

lodically vibrant and melodically inventive, but still sounds like a sideshow, which is what it's being marketed as. But there is a glimpse of something else. On a fierce, clamorous, loosely structured original composition *Return Expedition*, Jordan genuinely sounds like a new kind of guitarist, rather than a man who can sound like two rather ordinary guitarists. The first ambition makes sense, the second is crazy. It will be fascinating to check out the choices he makes.

Dewey Redman/Ed Blackwell. In *Willisau* (Soul Note — BSR 0093). A five-year-old session from the Willisau Jazz Festival, featuring two men whose most celebrated collaboration within the most sublimely inventive of the Ornette Coleman bands, Redman and Blackwell are both immensely resourceful improvisers who circumvent the limitations of a horn/drum duo by an adroit blend of Colemanesque relaxation about form, Rollins-like improvisatory stamina and intelligence (Redman) and highly musical development of the tonal qualities of drums (Blackwell).

Tributes to Coleman are naturally prominent — notably in the fast opening track *Willisau*, in which Redman plays a torrential solo full of convoluted blues figures, growls, mutterings and body-swinging runs — but the entire session is a masterpiece of spontaneous playing, deeply rooted in the black tradition and the blues. Harry Beckett. *Pictures of You* (Paladin PAL 2). A rare session as leader for the Barbadian trumpeter resident in Britain and a much loved feature of many local bands. Beckett is one of the most humorous and good-humoured of players, his playing a celebratory babble of chuckles, bustle and mild indignation, and his repertoire for music of his own choosing is generally a bright and expansive bebop, sometimes reminiscent of an Art Blakey band but with a Caribbean front line. The gentle and breezy set with some excellent solos from saxophonists Elton Dean and Tim Whitehead. The leader's beautiful, burnished tone on slow pieces is unfused at its haunting best on the hushed and rippling ballad *The Chosen One*.

RONNIE SCOTT'S
Robin Denselow

Linda
Thompson

UNTIL her divorce, Linda Thompson was a folk rocker providing the melodic counterpoint to the gloomy, edgy style of ex-husband Richard. Now she has moved on to a pleasant sophisticated solo blend of pop and country rock styles that seem best suited to the American market.

The main influence on her new music is Betsy Cook, the American wife of Linda's producer, Hugh Murphy, who wrote the melodies to Linda's new lyrics. As well as being a composer Betsy is also a skilful keyboard player and backing singer, as she showed with her low-key appearance in Linda's band.

Linda Thompson herself has changed not just her material but her looks. Once half-hidden in purdah, when she followed Richard into the Muslim faith, she now appeared as an elegant sophisticated in black.

She's playing two sets a night at Scott's appearing alongside the veteran jazz guitarist Charlie Byrd, and as the week progresses she will hopefully become less nervous. As it was, she demonstrated her clear easy style on rolling songs of her own (not all dealing with divorce) and excursions into Kate McGarrigle or Everley Brothers material.

There was no folk music on display, and no echoes of her much praised appearance in the National Theatre's production of *The Mysteries*, but she did finish with two of her ex-husband's songs.

Don't Renege On Our Love was a particularly sad but thrilling reminder of her earlier career.

CAMBRIDGE
Michael Grosvenor-Myer

Footlights

A FAIR Footlights this year. On the debit side (to get rid of the bad news first) one feels that, by the time Cambridge students have reached their third year they should have got past the stage of thinking that the very mention of anything to do with sexual congress or the organs of generation is automatically side-splitting. All in all, though, there is



Elegant sophisticate... Linda Thompson at Ronnie Scott's. Picture by Allan Titmuss

a good proportion of material with wit, or bite, or charm; and, even at its least lovable, the revue is held together by Charlie Pattinson's slick direction, Jenny Arnold's choreography and Philip Godfrey's excellent band.

The sketch about a Mr World contest, makes points about the sexism inherent on such occasions and has a good, and unexpected, punch line. There is some cogent satire about the exploitation of India by American industrialists and British film and TV directors, and about the threat of the Hong Kong 1997 agreement to the Chinese way of life.

Christopher Luscombe does a deadly Ted Hughes parody and a nice imitation of the English upper class female. The multi-talented Wynne, actor, singer, dancer, designer, reveals yet one more as an acrobat. Bill Cashmore and Alison Cook mine superbly a very funny piece about a driving test, adapted to real road conditions.

Kathryn Crew has good moments as an astronaut and Daniel Strauss, in a clutch of characteristics, excels as a hearty Irish folk singer. A clever Lloyd Webber running gag culminates in a production number which starts well but (the besetting sin of all but the very best of this kind of show) goes on a bit too long.

WIGMORE HALL
Hugo Cole

Josef Suk/
Josef Hala

SUK began his recital with his great grandfather Dvorak's Little Sonatina in G, a charmer of a piece, which can easily be made to sound too pretty for words. By his admirably straightforward approach and refusal to linger by the wayside to admire

the musical views he made us appreciate the piece's more businesslike qualities — that is, the way in which Dvorak accommodates his tunes which flow as easily as Schubert's in terse and simple forms, yet without missing the innocent sweetness at the music's heart.

Janacek's *Sonata* is not by any conventional definition a real sonata nor is the ballad at its centre a real ballad. Passionate declamatory music, obeying its own rules, which requires the violin to speak with all but human voice. Here, too, Suk's refusal to be swept away by emotional crosscurrents was a great advantage. We knew exactly where we were going, in spite of innumerable subtle variations of timbre and inflection.

Suk's broad vibrato-laden sounds are certainly central European, but his attitudes, and notably his control of rhythm and tempo in Brahms' A major and Beethoven's *Sonata* were entirely classical,

The trouble with both these performances was that the violinist and pianist were not always on the same wavelength. Josef Hala is a dependable player and in the main held good dynamic balance, but the two do not sound like a firmly established duo.

TELEVISION
Hugh Hebert

Bulman

YOU HAVE all heard of copper with his gloves, even if you have never met one and doubt, after Stonehenge, whether you ever will. George Bulman, on the other hands wears woollen gloves. In *Strangers*, the last in a series of very unheroic, Shakespeare-quoting detective appeared, he also had a plastic carrier bag.

It's a long haul from deer-stalker and pipe, but as character props go, they were quite far enough. In the new series called *Bulman* (Granada) he is back in woollen hat and the kind of scarf that keeps your ankles warm, having retired from the Met after knocking off his boss's wife.

Not that the policemen are ever assumed to retire, they just get privatised. Bulman, still played — as he has been since 1977 — by Don Henderson, begins his new life by buying himself into an antique business where he wants to turn into the most famous clock hospital in London.

But Lucy (Siobhan Redmond), daughter of an old chum in the Force, thinks he will be squandering his talents, and enlists herself as his aide in a private detective agency he doesn't yet know he has set up. Until sundry villains, including one who tries to burgle his shop and shoot him down, persuade him that the clocks will have to wait.

"Pure chiv," he says, "No briefs, no cuffs, no little black notebook." But he has clearly not forgotten the days when he was known as Old GBH. One acquaintance that Bulman holds a conversation with, while crushing his ribs against a stack of video nasties, has the same thought. "Citizen to citizen, pillock," Bulman snarls, "You tried to kill me today." Citizen to citizen, I didn't believe a word of it, but it had a pleasing, unhurried, watchable quality that will make me turn on again next week.

Murray Smith's script moves slickly enough, though you do sometimes wonder if police and criminal slang is handed down from father to son like a favourite truncheon or jemmy, with the royal arms and VR embossed on the handle.

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CONCERT DATES

Brookly Quartet/Welsh (Barbican, today 1 pm). As a lunchtime offering this brilliant young quartet with Moray Welsh as second cellist tackles the greatest of String Quintets, Schubert's in C.

Trifino (Wigmore, today 7.30). This brings the culmination of Martino Trifino's series covering the complete piano sonatas of Schubert, including fragments completed by Trifino himself.

Nakiphekov/Brown (Purcell Room, tomorrow 7.30). The young Soviet émigré, Alina Nakiphekov, pupil of Rostropovich, tackles a varied programme including Walton's solo *Pastorale* (one of his last works) and Ysaye's solo *Sonata*.

Abbado/LSO/Mullova (Barbican Saturday 7.45). The vibrant Viktoria Mullova's first British appearance in the Tchaikovsky Concerto, soon after her television profile, brought mixed critical responses but wild public acclaim. Here she tackles the Mendelssohn Concerto.

Ozawa/Philharmonia and Chorus (Festival Hall, Tuesday 7.30). Mendelssohn's Elijah, now dusted down from its Victorian associations, here receives a star performance with soloists Edith Wiens, Alfreda Hodgson, Robert Tear and Benjamin Luxon.

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THERE is nothing quite so depressing, for anyone but teenagers, as the average American movie directed towards the youth market. But John Hughes, whose previous credits include National Lampoon's Vacation, has come up with something much more intelligent in The Breakfast Club (Plaza, 5). His first feature as writer-director to reach us — there are another two on the way — is simply in a different league to Porky and the like.

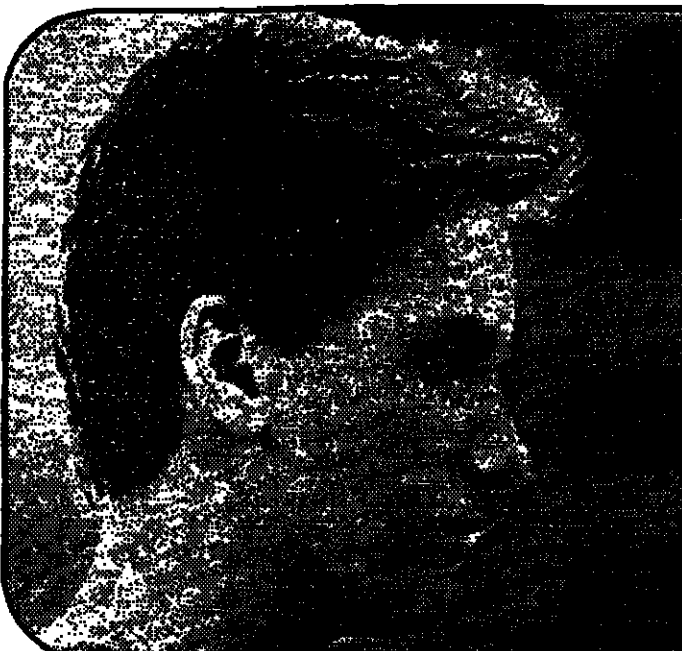
The club members in question are five young students serving a day's detention at a Chicago high school. They are under the supervision of a tired and cynical teacher who clearly hates their recalcitrant guts, and sets them the task of writing a 1,000-word essay on who the hell they think they are. Judging by first acquaintance, one would be agreeably surprised if more than two of them could complete their own names and addresses in the time.

Soon a slab of cannabis is lashed out of the locker-room by one of them, smoked by the company and taking its effect on what passes for their minds. So far, though the hectoring teacher is instantly dislikable, you also wonder what anyone could do for such a curiously blank-eyed and uninitiated charges. What if they then slowly but surely lose it like them. That is the small miracle of a literate script, some cleverly emphasised character development and good, tight direction.

Not only do you sympathise, but you also begin to know them. And there's nothing more revealing in this respect than what they eat for lunch, depending upon which of the various class backgrounds they come from. This is a sequence that Chabrol, that saviour of social gastronomy, could scarcely have bettered. Finally, we are told what kills them: sexual uncertainty, a total inability to explain themselves, even to each other, parents who demand their respectability at all costs and a whole society that angrily refuses them space to be different.

Perhaps we are near to cliché here. Yet the film never really tips over into cathos and predictability. It has no real heroes and is sparing in its condemnation. Even the teacher, whom the blue collar janitor spies for his middle-class aspirations, isn't totally shifty. Just a cog, like everyone else, in an impossible, sanity-destroying system.

Emilio Estevez in *The Breakfast Club*, left, Isabelle Huppert in *My Best Friend's Girl*, centre, and Lars Von Trier, director of *The Element of Crime*, right



Emilio Estevez in *The Breakfast Club*, left, Isabelle Huppert in *My Best Friend's Girl*, centre, and Lars Von Trier, director of *The Element of Crime*, right

Derek Malcolm reviews *The Breakfast Club* and other new releases

Snap, crackle and pot

time when love between film-maker and film was young, when the joy of creating oozed out on every frame... we want sensuality!

Notice the royal "we." Lars Von Trier is nothing if not imperious. And his first feature is possibly the most extraordinary to come our way for some time. Quite whether it is extraordinarily good is another matter. But this swinging mixture of A Touch of Evil and von Sternberg — or is it von Stroheim? — could certainly encourage a cult to form around it.

Von Trier throws everything at the screen except his grandmother, and I daresay she would have gone the same way had she been handy. His thriller is made in English, but Michael Elphick, Esmond Knight and a whole plethora of optical effects any one of which looks spectacular but which, taken together, would give a whole indication.

Elphick plays a moribund detective who returns from

Cairo to an unspecified part of Europe to find that his former guru (Knight) has now rejected all his previous theories of crime detection, based on psychology, as dangerous nonsense. Meanwhile, a series of bizarre murders is being investigated, and the detective, though increasingly the prey of his deteriorating condition, determines to solve them by dint of his boss's old methods.

Much of the film is confusing and some of it is totally indecipherable. But it does achieve one notable first — a sex scene on the bonnet of a VW Beetle with the woman gripping the moving windshield wipers for purchase. Fortunately no one is actually driving the car.

Von Trier clearly has talent, imagination, originality and a capacity to surprise. I just wish he would learn not to force it down one's throat. My Best Friend's Girl (Berkeley and Arts Classics, 15) is Bertrand Blier at his most

misogynistic. The laughs in this comedy leave a sour taste in the mouth, and don't come too often either.

Two ski bums, one a handsome ex-champion (Thierry Lhermitte), the other a kindly disc jockey (Coluche) are hit by an avalanche in the shape of Isabelle Huppert's readily available tramp. The ex-champion takes her to live with him, the disc jockey falls for her. The latter is too honourable a man to do anything about it, in spite her prompting, and falls ill with the strain of it all. In the end she beds him, but leaves both men in disgust when the disc jockey can't tell his friend.

The sight of Huppert, made up to the hilt and seemingly totally without her familiar innocence, is a sad one. But Blier's decision to make a sexual totem of her, as the playing of these rather feeble examples of the buddy-buddy syndrome, is sadder still. Rock Hudson, Doris Day, and Tony Randall might have

accomplished it all better in Hollywood, preferably with a lighter and brighter script.

As it is, the film constantly flatters to deceive and can't get away from its main problem, which is that it's never funny enough for long enough to avoid the kind of innate tastelessness that even the silliest Hudson-Day vehicle would have been careful to submerge with pace, jokes and probably sentimentality.

Larisa Shepitko's extraordinary *The Ascent*, which won the Golden Bear at Berlin the year I was on the jury, forms part of the short but intriguing National Film Theatre season. A Woman's Place in Soviet Cinema. It is to be shown daily from June 17 to 22, and is well worth seeing as a war story which not only admits some collaboration with the German invaders, but also contains a considerable amount of religious symbolism.

Shepitko, who died tragically young in an accident,

looked like becoming a major film-maker and certainly possessed great intensity and strength of purpose.

The organisers of British Film Year, often maligned and seldom praised, ought to get some credit for a number of events outside London for which local authorities have given them excellent co-operation. For instance, the current Hull Film Festival, which started last week and continues until June 12, with screenings of 25 British films, celebrity appearances and local film-makers involved as well.

The other major achievement of BFY so far is the educational programme which has been in touch with over 3,000 schools and colleges, a great many of which have shown interest in starting film courses, and including film in their arts curricula for the first time. If anything can change the public's perception of the cinema, this in the long run is most likely to do it.



Lars Von Trier talks to Tim Puleine about his film *The Element of Crime*

Lars picture show

"It's absolutely not a parody — to be loyal to a genre is to take the form and bring it up to date." Thus Lars Von Trier on his feature debut, *The Element of Crime*. He adds, perhaps revealingly: "To me, it's important in a detective thriller that you can't follow the story all the time."

Von Trier, who at 29 looks boyishly slim enough to pass for 19, modestly claims to have got to make the film by a stroke of luck. The Danish Film Institute, which provided some two-thirds of the funding, has a policy of backing one film a year by a first-time director, and he got in his submission first.

The film is in English because Von Trier wanted it to have a European, not a local, identity. There was strong pressure from the backers to make an additional Danish language version, but he was able to sidestep this when the film was invited to compete at Cannes. "There hadn't been a Danish picture in competition there for about 20 years, so they were prepared to concede just about anything."

Von Trier, a graduate of the Danish Film School, approaches moviemaking in what he calls a scientific way, preparing an immensely detailed shooting script and storyboards, with camera movements and an exact editing scheme worked out in advance. The satisfaction, he says, comes from aligning what he can get on the screen with the film that already exists in his mind's eye. The soundtrack was completely post-synchronised, not just to control the sound but so that he could instruct the actors and determine their precise

moves during actual shooting.

Rather in the manner of aversion therapy, he constructed the scenario, with scenes shot a giant crane and in the sewers, to exploit his own fear of both heights and the subterranean (he is constitutionally unable to travel on the Tube). Von Trier claims, possibly not altogether seriously, to have phobias about almost everything. "Funniest enough, spiders are one of the few exceptions."

A prime phobia concerns air travel, though, amazingly in the circumstances, he has sometimes essayed hang-gliding. "Where at least you have some control." Fear of flying is, he says, one reason why he could never go to Hollywood. "But really I wouldn't want to. I fell very much a European and some bad things have happened to Europeans there." A bit surprisingly, he cites Wim Wenders as a recent case in point.

His second film will be made in Berlin next spring. He calls it a homage to movie melodrama and is now busily "making" it in his head and on paper. "I like to write with an accompaniment of loud music. I've got a tape of Morricone's score for *Once Upon a Time in the West* — that's good music to write a melodrama by."

This film, too, will be in English, and like *Element of Crime* will feature the veteran British actor Esmond Knight, who is blind. "Knight is a brilliant performer, and it is interesting for a director to work with an actor who hasn't seen his own face for a long time. It means he has to trust the director completely." He adds, and again it is difficult to be sure whether he is joking: "Maybe more actors should be blind."

BRIEFING

Best films

Witness (ABC, Shaftesbury Avenue, etc): Peter Weir's American film with Harrison Ford as hard-boiled detective making it with the gentle Amish community. Good mixture of art and commerce. The Grey Fox (Screen on the Hill): Philip Borsos' debut gives first starring role to Westerns' veteran Richard Farnsworth, and reaps considerable dividends. Funny Dirty Little War (ICA Cinema): Brave Argentinian black face about Peronism, Silver Bear winner at Berlin and deservedly celebrated. A Love In Germany (Chelsea and Camden Plaza): Hanna Schygulla rampant in Andrzej Walda's Hochhuth adaptation about everyday fascism in small wartime community. Starman (Leicester Sq Theatre, etc): John Carpenter recovers some form as excellent Jeff Bridges, man of outer space, learns to be human in with Karen Allen. The Times Of Harvey Milk (Academy): First-class documentary about gay San Francisco councillor, his rise to power and eventual murder.

Best on TV

Forever Young (Tonight, C4, 9.30): Another of the First Love series, written by David Drury, about traumatic reopening of old emotional wounds.

Special interest

TO FIND out what happened to the Brazilian cinema when the famous revolutionary Cinema Novo movement was repressed after the 1964 military coup is not a very difficult process. But the National Film Theatre's present Brazilian season does offer some pleasant surprises, like Eduardo Coutinho's *On The Death List*, and Jose Martins' *Tonight I Will Eat Your Corpse*. The first is arguably one of the finest Brazilian films, the second, an oddly surreal horror movie.

Derek Malcolm

REALISTICALLY it's impossible to think of the dance musical movie without nostalgia. The new MGM anthology *That's Dancing* despite its claims that dance on film is alive and bopping can't help implying that they just don't make films like that any more.

"Either this camera will dance or I will," said Fred Astaire. In fact both approaches can succeed. In the thirties, Busby Berkeley's camera actively controlled and roamed around the choreography while Fred Astaire had the camera seamlessly following his dances. The two men helped shape the Warner's 'thirties backstage and the RKO dance musical, bringing them to respective peaks. Their films seemed like signposts to the future but, as it turned out, the dance musical never got so high again. *That's Dancing* can't help showing that, and neither can the National Film Theatre's four-week May season of American dance musicals.

Dancing isn't always what matters most in the movies, but in its heightening of observed movement, it's a more valuable part of the film than people often admit. In many films dance is only a diversion; *Singin' in the Rain* and *Funny Face* are both blissful movies, but less for their dancing than for other reasons. Still, dance in film can be so brilliant that it can off-balance a film, as with the Nicholas Brothers and their astounding leaps in *Down Argentine Way*. The beauty of the Astaire and Berkeley movies is that they knew, as no one really has since, how to balance a film around dance.

Gene Kelly in It's Always Fair Weather, from That's Dancing

Alastair Macaulay on *That's Dancing* and the NFT's American season, *Dancin' USA*

Astaire way to fame

The filming methods used for Astaire and Berkeley are prime examples of how rhythm and movement of camera and subject can interrelate. People still say they were lightweights and not really "serious" dancers but it's the musical-comedy lightness that's deceptive. To show anyone how serious dancing can be on film I wouldn't turn them to West Side Story or All That Jazz but to Fred and Ginger's *Never Gonna Dance in Swing Time* or to the entirely different Lullaby of Broadway in *Cold Diggers*.

The *Dancin' USA* season was the NPT's contribution to the American Festival, aptly, because America's great contribution to the arts has been its dance and films.

The collection made an odd series in that it didn't go for all the best films — only two of the Astaire-Rogers RKO series — or the silent movies,



but it did include some rare gems such as the 1929-30 early dance musicals *The Broadway Melody*, *Rio Rita*, *Whoopee!*, *Hallelujah*, and the wonderful collection of sequences illustrating Ernie Smith's lecture on black tap-dancing greats. Also included was Miles Kreuger's lecture, with its reels of live Broadway taken by Ray Knight who snuck his 16mm camera into theatres for 30 years, catching the original *I Married An Angel* and *Song of Norway* (Balanchine choreograph to both). Pal Joey, *Oklahoma*, *On The Town*, *My Fair Lady* and others.

That's *Dancin' USA* tries for more than the specific form of dance musicals by taking a bit of ballet on board — but it has no modern dancing beyond a few seconds of Isadora Duncan and features no great examples of dancing on screen from the last 25 years. As with *Dancin' USA* it should be seen for its never previously shown sequences, such as Ray Bolger's boneless scissor dance that somehow never made it into the *Wizard of Oz*, and for its rare items. (But if you want to know what films they're from, in several cases you're not told.) Many people will be new to the two greatest dances it contains. Astaire's solo *I Won't Dance* from *Roberta* and his duet *Pick Yourself Up* with Rogers in *Swing Time*. I'd add to them their *Night and Day* duet from *The Gay Divorcee*, but a central section has been hideously cut out.

In fact, there's much about *That's Dancing* that's irritating. There are simply too many items, and too many of them are too short, almost no dance is shown in full and the compilers, Liza Maxwell and Sammy Davis Junior are wearying.

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A decision... at last, a decision

At last, at long, long last. The Government has approved a partial development of Stansted as London's third airport, thereby breaking a record 30-year log jam of decision making. This is to be part of a national airports policy which will involve privatisation of the British Airports Authority and the possible negotiation of traffic rights for US airlines to fly into Manchester. There is to be no fifth terminal at London's Heathrow "at present", any future expansion will be subject to Commons approval (no further public inquiry?). The Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, whose own political future has been the source of much speculation, appears to have buckled before the vociferous lobby of London Conservative MPs while standing full face (well almost) against the highly vocal Stansted lobby which produced a 70 strong Tory rebellion in the Commons when the airport last came before Parliament in January. Where Eyre recommended a fifth London terminal to raise capacity from 38 to 53 million passengers by the mid 1990s, some removal of the Government's proposed ceiling of 275,000 aircraft movements a day, all that has been granted is the latter. Mr Ridley, it seems, developed mental fatigue when he saw the whites of Mr Toby Jessel's eyes.

Where the Eyre report recommended expanding Stansted, 40 miles away from London in the Tory heartlands, from 527,000 passengers a year to 15 million by 1990, Mr Ridley has approved a first phase expansion of 7 to 8 million passengers a year, barely more than the 5 million "absolute limit" which local residents say they could tolerate. But this is seen as a first stage and provision has been made for Stansted to be developed eventually up to the projected Eyre capacity of 15 million passengers a year.

No one likes the enormous environmental strains which a new airport brings, even with the proposed controls on noise levels. But unless Britain is to duck out of one of the few growth industries where we're making a mark (as opposed to all the

declining industries we have been forced out of) then a major expansion of facilities is inevitable and long overdue. Stansted's existing facilities and proximity to London make it, overwhelmingly, the first choice. It would have been nice, especially for this paper, to have been able to justify a big expansion in the regions, particularly Manchester. But at the end of the day airports must follow the market place and not vice versa. Regional airports will grow and certainly need new investment to make them more attractive, but they are not in the market as an alternative to a third London airport until the market decides they are. There is always Knock and Prestwick to remind us that concrete, in the end, has to follow trade, and not vice versa.

What is more immediately worrying is whether yesterday's document amounts to a coherent policy to meet the enormous demand for air travel in the South-east forecast by the Eyre committee, whose forecasts were based on the conservative assumption that demand for the rest of the century will grow at only four per cent a year, just half the industry's traditional growth rate of eight per cent a year.

True, some of the more bearish scenarios of yesterday have not materialised. Heathrow somehow copes. True, that there are short term juggling which can boost runway utilisation, like more bigger planes, fewer planes taking off half empty and so on. But in the new era of Ridley-inspired competition, with new companies pitching for runway space, it is not easy to see how congestion at Heathrow will be significantly improved.

So the issue of a fifth Heathrow terminal will not go away. An "urgent" study is to be undertaken into the removal of the Perry Oaks sludge plant, with no great expectation that local authorities will be falling over themselves with bids to site the sewage works elsewhere. The Government considers release of the land to be highly desirable whether or not a fifth terminal is to be built. And in any case the provision of a fifth terminal will be "kept under review." Maybe the fifth terminal will reappear on the agenda sooner rather than later. It looks more and more as though a beleaguered Mr Ridley could not face a war on two fronts against Tory rebels at the same time. He had to choose. And at least — blessed relief — he has made a choice. It won't be universally popular. Indeed, it is already under heavy attack. But there is,

in the ultimate, no use in complaining that the infrastructure of Britain is failing to modernise itself (which it is) and bawling at the specifics of modernisation, arrived at over thirty, interminable years. Mr Ridley has produced a political, quavery balance. But then action attached.

The elusive Mr Shamir

Mr Yitzhak Shamir has not cut a very sympathetic figure during his visit to London. He is plainly stalling to avoid negotiations about the occupied West Bank, and with a majority of the United States Senate behind him he must feel on firm ground. Disregarding the emphatic advice of the State Department, the Senate has passed a resolution opposing the sale of advanced military equipment to Jordan until King Hussein enters into direct negotiations with Israel. The resolution is not binding but it is a clear sign of where American sympathies, and misunderstandings, lie.

Israel's position as expressed by its foreign minister and endorsed by the Senate is disingenuous. Mr Shamir says he is prepared to talk to King Hussein or to Palestinian Arabs without any pre-conditions. But the King, he goes on, has imposed the two conditions that the PLO or its surrogates must be brought in and that the talks should take place in an international framework, with the Russians present, which would be nothing but a propaganda forum. Setting aside the modalities of the talks as a secondary matter (although no agreement is likely to stick which does not have Soviet assent) it must be as clear to Mr Shamir as it is to the State Department that if the Palestinians in the team are to be representative they will adopt a broad PLO position, whether they are members or not. If he is asking for volunteers who will argue for Israel's retention of some or all of the West Bank he will find himself facing a collection of nonentities. That does not mean that there are no shades of opinion among Palestinians. Clearly there are, and it would be reasonable for Israel to try for a settlement which produced a moderate and not a radical Palestinian entity on the West Bank. But those shades of opinion exist as much within the PLO as outside it.

The continued Israeli emphasis on the absence of pre-conditions for talks disguises

the fact that Israel itself is imposing them. The first, and lesser, is that Israel shall effectively decide the composition of the opposing team, which is as much a novelty in diplomacy as it would be in industrial relations. The more important is that although Israel is in illegal occupation of the West Bank, a pre-condition which would apply for the duration of any talks, it is the Arabs to make submissions about how this control might be relaxed, Israel would then accept or reject them at will. This pre-condition of force majeure is rather more exacting than any produced by King Hussein.

It is extraordinary and sad, seen from this side of the Atlantic, that the US Congress can tackle a wide range of international topics with detachment and objectivity and yet close its mind to the force of the Palestinian argument. In this case it has done so with an almost wilful disregard of American (and, ironically, Israeli) interests in a sensitive region. For if the pragmatists like Hussein, Mubarak, and Eshkol can make no impact, very little political acumen is needed to see who will be the next to try.

Whitehall knows best

The Government often — nay, continually — claims that one of the problems of nationalisation is that Ministers interfere too much in the running of public enterprises. The 1979 manifesto actually stated: "We want to see those industries that remain nationalised running more successfully and we will therefore interfere less with their management." Why, pray, then is the Department of Industry apparently intervening to force British Leyland (BL) to buy engines and gearboxes from Honda of Japan as a condition for approval for its new corporate plan. By buying Japanese, the Department argues, some £250 million will be knocked off the £1.8 billion five year investment programme.

Now we have got used over the years to Government departments intervening to force public enterprises and Government departments to buy British. But for the gentlemen in Whitehall (the chaps Ministers keep telling us don't know anything about industry) to force a nationalised corporation to buy foreign is, to say the least, unusual. The Department of Industry must ask itself

whether it is supposed to be helping British industry or whether it has become an overseas subsidiary of the already enormously powerful Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Another Rover has argued that without the capacity to design its own engines the UK would become a mere assembler of foreign technology. Is this really what the Government wants?

None of this is to be interpreted as being anti-Japanese. BL's existing links with Honda have proved successful and are part of a world trend towards international collaboration. We have welcomed Nissan's plans to manufacture in the North-east, which could prove a catalyst for improved efficiency among suppliers and for radical changes in "them and us" attitudes on the shopfloor. And, in any case, it is better that the plants come here rather than as it surely would, go to the continent of Europe instead. But it is one thing to encourage new competition, quite another to hand your last indigenous motor manufacturer of any size (BL) in instalments to a foreign competitor.

Of course, and frankly, the Government's rescue of BL has not been the outstanding success that many of its proponents had hoped. But neither has it been the failure that its critics (including many in the Government) had expected. Above all BL is still there and, while not profitable, appears to have stemmed what looked like an endemic loss of market share. And the rescue has been cheap in that the cost of closing it down would have been at least as great for the taxpayer.

The sums now being talked about — £1.8 billion over five years — are not large when you consider the size of the company and the cost (in terms of future unemployment pay) of letting BL wither on the woe. BL's misfortune is to be presided over by a Government with a deep distaste for public enterprise, one whose myopic vision cannot distinguish between borrowing for current expenditure and borrowing for capital reasons. A quick £250 million cut from BL's budget, against the company's commercial judgment, will reduce public sector borrowing by that amount; but at the expense of another worsening of the accelerated decline of manufacturing industry which this Government has, tragically, presided over. Is that really Mr Norman Tebbit's 1985 message to the nation?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When apartheid 'sweet-talks' people out of their homes

Sir,—I have received a message from John Mathoppe of the Mathopostad Community in the Transvaal, South Africa. This community is under threat of forced removal, and his appeal for support has been prompted by the visit to London of Dr Viljoen, the Minister responsible for Cooperation, Development and Education in South Africa.

In a much publicised statement on February 1 Dr Viljoen announced that forced removals were to be suspended while the government reviews its policy, although this was later qualified by the explanation that removals would continue "if their leaders agree."

In 1983 the then minister responsible, Dr Koorhof, undertook not to proceed with the resettlement plans without consulting the leaders of the community. However, since the February 1 statement Dr Viljoen's department has deliberately

sought to bypass the leaders of the Mathopostad Community and to coerce and entice a small number of people in the community to agree to move to a resettlement camp. Now the latest development is that Dr Viljoen's deputy minister has stated that once a final decision has been taken by the government — formal meetings and discussions will be arranged if necessary.

Last June on the eve of P. W. Botha's visit to Britain, we succeeded in focussing international attention on the people of KwaNgema and their struggle against forced removal. I hope your readers will see through the "double-speak" of the apartheid regime and protest against the current plans to uproot the people of Mathopostad, and the many other communities similarly threatened by the South African resettlement policies.

Glenys Kinweek
London W5

Fall guys of the NUM

Sir,—I feel I really must protest most strongly about the attempt by Neil Myers (The Media page, June 3) to justify the object failure of the miners' strike by claiming media distortion as the main reason.

The facts of the matter are very different. It was patently obvious what the media would do, as they were a part of the trap set by Thatcher into which the NUM obligingly jumped.

The strike itself was utter madness in view of the scenario that The Economist had already portrayed some time before, and I'm afraid I attach most blame for its failure to the inner caucus of advisers close to Mr Scargill, of whom I am told Mr Myers is a leading member. It was lost before it started, and plenty of people (sometimes described as weak-kneed) told them so, but it was forced on the membership with wholly predictable results.

Many professional media workers pleaded to vain with various NUM officials for a switch in tactics, as we saw the miners being eaten alive by brilliant Government tactics. I can recall spending nearly an hour on the telephone one Sunday during which I implored Mr Myers to switch the NUM away from mass picketing to a high-profile PR campaign in the capitalist press. NCB full-page advertisements were winning men over the picket lines in droves: the NUM should have publicly presented the Case For Coal first, and seized the initiative that the NCB had cornered for its own use.

But all to no avail. And now we have incalculable and lasting damage done to the wider trade union movement, whilst the average miner sits back sadly surveying his debunked general secretary and contemplating exactly how his totally washed-up union will be able to defend the last vestiges of mining employment against Thatcher's market forces. The rate of pit closures currently taking place is unstoppable, and the NCB is now in a position to do exactly as it pleases without consulting the unions.

Allied with the pathetic bleating of Nacods, it is a most dismal picture, but one which Arthur, Neil and the inner sanctum of St James's House have only themselves to blame for. — Yours sincerely, A. J. Sheldon, 29 St Ann's Close, Winchester, Hampshire.

Chair practice

Sir,—Twenty years ago you told us that Sir Malcolm Garrett was a master of controlling chairs. On June 4, at last, you have put the record straight, by reporting that a chair had been thrown through a window.—Yours, Fritz Spiegel, Liverpool.

The tales TV tells on Englishmen abroad

Sir,—Your correspondent's writing on "Rampages in the age of Individualism's dead end" (May 31) again quote Merton's concepts: the rising pole upwardly mobile has grasped the gadgets and gimmicks of "success," but corner-shop Conservatism drives him back to servant's hall and denies him. He now tears apart the society which plucked away the carrot: he becomes the barbarian at Brussels.

Have not the English, Sir, always been a violent people who driven by a violent at home by mouth and abroad by muscle? Vacant-eyed men talk of rivers of blood and they are benignly ignored. Things go ahead to capture territories and enslave men, to demolish nations and ravish vast rich lands, but they are received with honour as empire-builders.

Is not our undoing not an excess of new scruple, but television? TV exposed the ugly American in Vietnam, and TV exposes the Englishman abroad. News manufacturers and manipulators have lost their monopoly: suppressions and deformations no longer go unchallenged. Eighty nations and a billion people may have seen the

slaughter at Heysel and there was no professor of imperial history to tell us that they went from Marsbury on a grand civilising mission for god, king, and country.

A freak phenomenon is that the imperial mind in a state of decay is to be found among "slum people" (Sunday Times), and in the slum, guess the black is barracked and the opponents battered. Are our slum people the ghosts of empire? A 19th century Tennyson poet (South India) wrote:

And the English slew our men and killed the bodies of the slain! Then their Lord proclaimed and he alone pronounced, / God's judgment came upon these savages! For they'd have done the same" (trans.).

Brussels 1985? No, India 1935. How sad for the civilised in Her Majesty's kingdom.—Yours truly, (Dr) Ananda Nayak, 230 Sherwood Avenue, London SW16.

Sir,—In the context of the Brussels violence Dave Burnham (Letters June 4) is right to call for a re-examination of "the way we teach boys to be men." This indeed is the ultimate test upon which talk of preven-

tion and punishment is a mere cosmetic.

To the nonpolitical minds of untutored young men, recent history provides a paradigm for their behaviour. Between Argentinians, the loss of hundreds of lives in the sinking of their ships, and the huge but accepted cost of this particular act of jingoism on the one hand, and aggression with a few yaps on foreign soil on the other, the line to many fuddled young minds must seem indistinct.

It would be in the worst possible taste to imagine, and ideally be masterful, that some insensitive, complacent, chauvinist political leader might have asked us to rejoice that our lads did so well. For brutal and unnecessary violence to be acceptable, it must be performed at the highest technical level, include politicians among its perpetrators, and ideally be masterminded by a Prime Minister.—Yours sincerely, Ian Flintoff, 22 Chaldon Road, London SW6.

Sir,—Sooner or later someone was going to blame Mrs Thatcher for the deaths in Brussels. Jeremy Seabrook's pernicious and nasty little

article (Agenda, June 3) puts the boot in, and in so doing identifies one of the causes of the lawlessness behind the tragedy.

I come from Liverpool rather than, like 300,000 of my fellow Scousers in the last two decades I despair of that dying city and left. Unemployment and poverty may well cause despair, but they do not cause Britishness. Bad housing and incompetent local government, obsessed with other battles, can generate anger, but surely not violence as well, and directed at football supporters trying to enjoy a match.

It is not displacement activity but utterly amoral behaviour, deliberately fuelled by drink for which, humbly enough, there was plenty of money when they needed it, wasn't there?

Setting these things up as victims absolves them of responsibility. It's not your fault, lads, you've got a social disease, remember Officer Krupke? You don't need punishment, you need treatment—which somehow always means more public money, of course; you don't need correction, you need help.

You need justification for what you do? Call in Mr Seabrook and his like and he

will provide it, complete with high moral tone.

And so they go on doing it, laughing all the way to the coast home, knowing they have got away with it again. By failing to condemn or control these vicious thugs over more than 20 years (long before Mrs Thatcher's society—and that means Mr Seabrook, too) has condoned their activities, and so unwittingly has encouraged them.

One thing he is right about: whatever legislation we pass, it is too late, both for the 38 dead—and others, such as the young boy dead in Birmingham—and the hundreds of injured. It is too late for football as a professional game; next season the dwindling gates will become microscopic as paying customers decide it is safer to take the wife to Sainsbury's.

But without a clear condemnation of the thuggery, with a recognition that these acts are performed by individuals, not by sociological agglomerations—the morals will find another channel for their aggression, and the violence will continue.—Yours faithfully, Edwinna Currie, MP, (C, Derbyshire S), House of Commons.

Why the Stonehenge convoy strikes fear in Tina's heart

Sir,—Thank you for your Leader (June 4) concurring with the High Court injunction telling 30,000 people to clear off the "stones".

I visited the site last Wednesday to check out the security and get my car number written down by the guards. I have no connection with the "convoy" other than a share in the 1980s dream to live on the road and not get hassled. Fortunately I got it together, but I must admit I live out my romantic fantasies driving a commercially operated school bus.

The single-coil razor wire started a couple of miles from the site in both directions; all the fields round the "stones" had double coils and the place was crawling with security and warnings of 24 hour patrols. It is obvious that the cost of this and the continuing police operation to secure the site would be sufficient to organise a festival of some size and sophistication had it been in the hands of a body like the Arts Council.

One is forced to the conclusion that, with a Government obsessed by fighting for principle and financial economy it must be for the former reason that the festival has been stopped.

On the face of it the "convoy" is a paragon of Thatcherite enterprise. They have used their initiative to assemble a fleet rivaling the Falklands task force in complexity if not in scale.

The problem is that instead of working for profit they devote their energies to sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Sex, I must confess, I indulge in occasionally myself; rock 'n' roll is beginning to

bore me a little at forty; but drugs are another thing. When I visited the festival last year towards the end of June, "fun" drugs were freely available; but when I asked for heroin I was threatened with immediate forcible removal from the site.

It appears to me, therefore, that the "convoy" is below, stopped because it demonstrates that, contrary to the PM's insistence, there is an alternative. These people are not no-hopers content to live in destitution on crumbling estates, deriving solace from a self-destructive needle. They are energetic

and resourceful youngsters; their message is one of hope to a sick, hopeless generation; and they deserve support from the only major liberal-minded publication we have left.—Yours with respect, John Perkins, The White House, Kerswell, Devon.

Sir,—The Earl of Carrigan said he was shocked by the police action against the Stonehenge convoy (only those with a sickle to grind will see anything sinister in the omission of his deference to the police from his brief interview on BBC news).

But at least it suggests a possible solution to the question raised by the Brussels affair. Why not put the soccer things into riot gear and give them a free hand in smashing people and property? As Orwell might have said, violence is law and order.—Sincerely, Roger Woddis, 6 Windsor Road, London N12.

less common when the country was overrun by rabbits, but responded to the decline in their numbers brought about by myxomatosis in the 1950s. In the 18th century it was comparatively uncommon, and noticed chiefly as a weed of waste-ground and cornfields. June's wild roses are yet awaked, and I have yet to glimpse the scarlet of poppies where soil has been disturbed by roadside pipe-laying; but the signs are that our waysides will be bright with galaxies of blossom as summer unfolds. E. A. ELLIS



Public Servants or Political Pawns

Since "law and order" became a central election issue, the police have found themselves thrust squarely into the political limelight. All too often, the script provided for them has been no more than party-political sloganising.

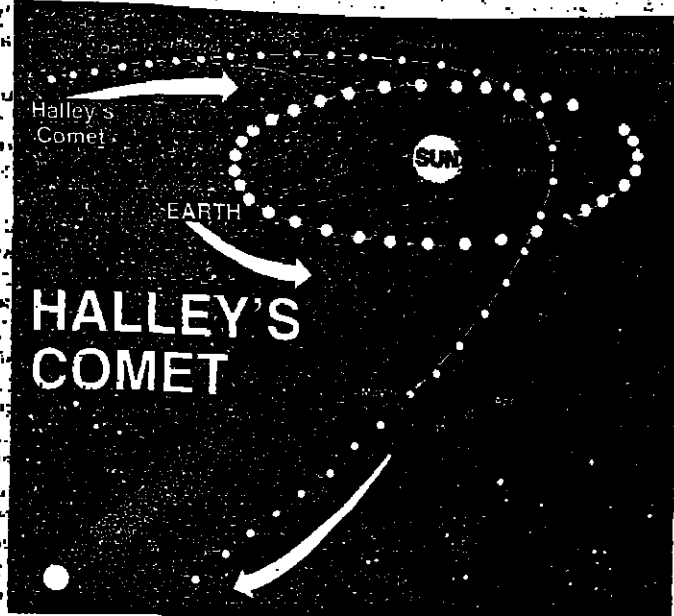
In Ulster, in the "inner city", in industrial disputes, after the embassy sieges and three tragic shooting incidents, Britain's police are in danger of disappearing behind the headlines; serious research has been in short supply.

In this week's *THESE*, P. A. J. Waddington reviews some of the latest publications on the subject.

Also this week ★ Freud's legacy: part two of a series
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Europe's spacecraft Giotto is almost ready for a historic rendezvous with comet Halley. Anthony Tucker reports on the £90 million venture

The journey of a lifetime

IT IS NOT easy to shoot a spacecraft at a comet. King Harold, who watched the return of Halley in 1066 with the Bayeux Tapestry chroniclers, tell us that it was a celestial sign of impending defeat — and the great Giotto, who took the Halley return of 1301 into his fresco as a signal of the Heavenly Reveler, would be awed by our intention to intercept the comet in its flight past the sun. Giotto would be pleased, of course, that the intercepting spacecraft is named after him but perhaps totally unable to grasp that his comet and ours are one and the same.

And, jumping from the historical to the contemporary mode, there are many who fail to understand how it is that the European Space Agency, having named the spacecraft Giotto, prefer to decorate their space literature about the flight with pictures of Harold looking distinctly concerned and soon, presumably, to get a French arrow in his eye. No marks for recalling that ESA is Paris-based or that Giotto is to be launched by a French arrow (Ariane) from the French base at Kourou, French Guiana, on 13 July, or soon afterwards. OK? (The prime contractor, you'll be glad to know, is British Aerospace Dynamics.)

It is, however, an intricate and large project involving not only European scientific and technical collaboration at the highest levels, but worldwide collaboration in which a cluster of spacecraft (of which Giotto is the most complex) are being dispatched to intercept and observe comet Halley, which is now approaching the orbit of planet earth from below the plane of the ecliptic, accelerating in to pass behind the sun early in 1986. Halley's orbital plane is at an angle of

about 18 degrees to the ecliptic — that is the plane of the planets — so on its close approach to the sun, every 76 years, it crosses the plane of the ecliptic twice.

Comets are mysterious objects even within the extraordinary realm of astronomy, for there are (at least) more than a thousand associated with our solar system and neither their origin nor their structure is properly understood. Most have periods that are far longer than Halley's 76 years, spending centuries on journeys taking them far out into space beyond the furthest planets and making their return to the sun so infrequently and unobtrusively that their periods are not yet established.

In contrast Halley's visits are so distinctive that with the recent unearthing of references to the Halley visit of BC 164 in Babylonian cuneiform tablets in the archives of the British Museum, every return back to 240 BC has been observed and recorded. Once in every lifetime: but ours is the first lifetime in which we have planned to visit Halley.

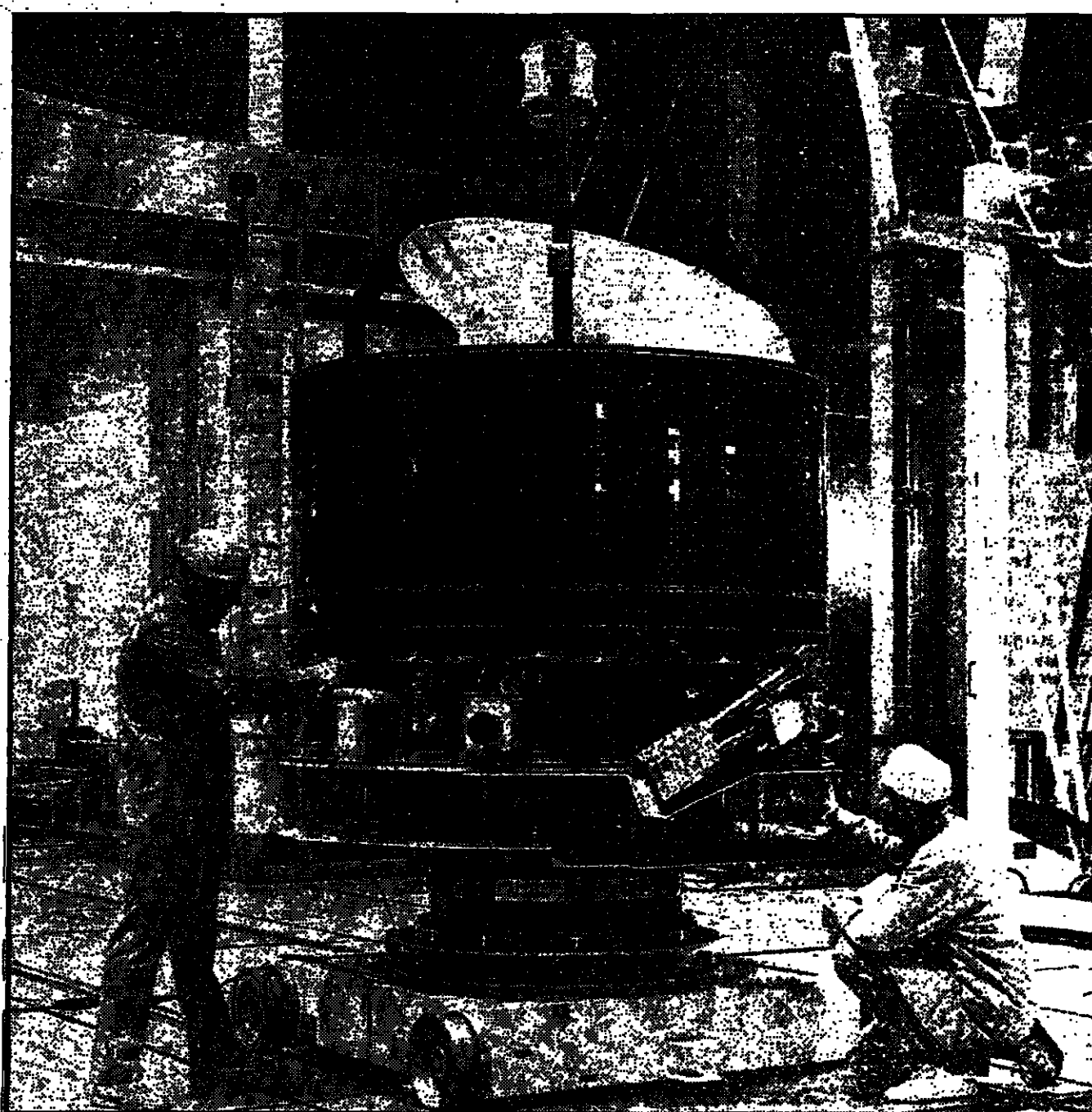
The science, too, is fascinating, for there have for decades been speculations and competing hypotheses, often a source of bitter dispute, about the physical structure of comets. Since the asteroid belts are believed to be in part the debris of comets which have broken up during the high stress of their journey round the sun, cometary material was initially conceived as an accretion of rock-like fragments holding together by their own mini-gravity and orbital similarity. They were either captured when the planetary system coalesced or, as some of their eccentric orbits suggest, may have been subsequently captured by the sun's gravitational field as they journeyed through space.

Giotto: scientific artist in pursuit of a 'dirty snowball'

But this "gravel ball" hypothesis of cometary structure cannot explain all recent ground-based observations of the behaviour of comets as they pass the sun. In any case the original simple-minded notion that the large head of a comet must be a large solid body vanished early in systematic observation when it was realised that stars are visible through it. There is no record, anywhere, of a star ever being occulted by the passage of a comet. This means that, if there is a solid nucleus, it must be small and probably less than 10 kilometres in diameter.

One hypothesis, now unfashionable but scientific fashions are as fickle as those of costume and often as devoid of good mathematics, envisages a comet as a cloud of particles (a kind of sand-bank hypothesis) whose extent would be large at the furthest reaches of orbit but would be much smaller during the solar passage. This change in cloud size would be the result of the orbital characteristics of the particles which, held in a cluster lightly by their own mini-gravity, would necessarily cross each others' orbits during the solar passage thus creating a much denser particle cloud for a short period.

The currently favoured hypothesis, developed by Professor Fred Whipple in the 1950s, is that a comet is in part a cloud of minute particles but that these are associated with an essential cometary heart — a nucleus which may or may not be spherical and which consists of a mixture of small particles (dust) and ice (water plus frozen gases such as methane and ammonia) in the form of a giant snowball a few kilometres in diameter. Known as the "dirty snowball" hypothesis this fits together with an associated hypothesis that well beyond the furthest planet there exists a vast belt of orbiting cometary nuclei — many



millions of dirty snowballs — whose position in the complex gravitational shifts at the limits of the solar field means that some get pulled into the solar system and some go elsewhere. This cloud of dirty snowballs — the Oort Cloud — is inferred in part from the limits of known cometary orbits. It remains, however, hypothetical.

But the "dirty snowball" at the heart of comet Halley, if indeed such a bizarre object exists, is about to be inspected. The Giotto spacecraft travelling through the cometary cloud at a combined velocity of about 68 kilometres a second (rather better than 150,000 miles an hour) should pass within 500 km of the heart of the comet on March 13, 1986.

Its Franco-German camera system, operating at four wavelengths and built on the assumption that it is possible to photograph through the cometary cloud — which may be quite dense near the nucleus — should relay revealing pictures of the presence or absence of the giant snowball. In the meantime a battery of other experiments will be looking at the cometary particles, at its gaseous composition, at its plasma tail (which points away from the sun) and at its bow-wave and a host of other characteristics.

Comets, in fact, have two tails, a narrow central region

which appears to reflect sunlight and is thought to comprise small dust particles, and a much wider region of hot gas (plasma). Although seen as flat tails from earth these are, of course, conical in form, driven off the comet and heated by direct solar radiation and by the solar wind.

If you are wondering how a snowball of any kind can survive repeated close passages of the sun the answer is that the nucleus is spinning. That in the case of Halley only about 0.3 per cent of its time is spent in conditions where melting can occur and that the process of sublimation is very demanding of energy. It is estimated that the radius of the comet's icy nucleus would be reduced by only a metre or two on each visit to the sun. Thus it can last for a very long time.

Those who remember a decade or so ago, a seemingly foolproof way of destroying incoming missiles by putting a cloud of particles in their way, thus eroding them through high velocity impact in matter of a second or two, might wonder how a spacecraft can survive travel through a cometary particle cloud at better than 150,000 miles an hour — much faster than any of your missiles. Since at this velocity a particle whose mass is less than a tenth of a gram can penetrate

about 10 centimetres of armour, it might seem that Giotto is necessarily carrying more protection than useful payload.

Not so: Giotto is equipped with shielding but, instead of comprising a single thick sheet, it consists of two separated layers. Any particle striking the outer sheet (up to about a tenth of a gram which is the largest expected to be encountered in any numbers) will vapourise the outer sheet at the point of impact and also vapourise itself. The resulting high velocity puff of vapour will travel toward the second shield, expanding rapidly as it goes. By the time it arrives, a mere micro-second or two later, its energy will be spread over a much larger area than in the original impact and will therefore present no problems for a relatively thin shield. An elegant solution to an ugly problem and one which probably explains why dust cloud defence systems never went beyond the proposal stage. Ingeniously, the outer shield is used as a detector for a British experiment measuring particle sizes.

With the £34 million prime construction contract now almost completed, the array of experiments now being tested in their final positions, and the preparations for launch well under way, Project Giotto (whose total cost is

about £90 million) is very much a reality. There are two Russian spacecraft, Vega 1 and 2, already on their way to intercept Halley, followed closely by a pathfinder Japanese spacecraft (MS-TS) which will serve as a guide for the Japanese Planet-A Halley probe to be launched in August. International astronomical organisations have made and are now carrying out their coordinated plans for observation of Halley from the earth through a battery of large instruments — optical, spectroscopic, radio and infra-red — and the amateur astronomers (whose cometary observations and discoveries normally dominate the field) are not only gearing up for the event by growing rapidly in numbers as interest in Halley draws new amateurs into the arena.

In the midst of all this Giotto will be launched, to arrive close to the nucleus when the comet is at its most active. If cometary material has really been in deep-freeze at the outer fringes of the solar system for 4½ billion years, then comets might tell us something about our beginnings. But, with Halley due to become visible through powerful binoculars in a month or so — at least from a decently dark place — who cares about that? It is here, now, like Everest. Let's climb it, easy or not.

Comet timetable

- July 2: Launch Window for Giotto opens. The probe has to be launched before August 12 if it is to fulfil its planned investigations.
- August: Halley may become visible as a dim fuzzy object to moderately powerful amateur-owned telescopes and will steadily increase in brightness over the next few months.
- August 14: Launch window opens for Japanese Planet-A Halley Probe.
- September onward: The US International Cometary Explorer probe (ICEX) reaches the comet Giacobini-Zinner to make observations that, valuable in their own right, will also be used in the interpretation and calibration of Giotto experimental observations.
- October 16: Draconid meteor shower believed to be debris from comet Giacobini-Zinner — reaches its maximum.
- October 20: Orionid meteor shower — debris from comet Halley — reaches its maximum.
- Nov. 27: Closest approach to earth of Halley on its first passage through the ecliptic.
- December onward: Halley may be visible to the naked eye in Britain. By the end of January 1986 the comet will be lost in the evening twilight, becoming invisible as it passes behind the sun during February. When it emerges from behind the sun the comet will be too far south to be seen from Northern latitudes.
- End Feb: Halley emerges from behind sun.
- March 8: Vega 1 flies past Halley at a distance of about 10,000 km from the nucleus.
- March 8: Japan's Planet-A probe flies past at a distance of about 200,000 km.
- March 9: Vega 2 flies past Halley, at 10,000 km or closer.
- March 13-14: Giotto spacecraft intercepts Halley, about midnight GMT, approaching to within about 500 km from nucleus. At this time the relative velocity will be 68 km/sec.
- April 11: Halley, again passing through the ecliptic, makes its closest approach to earth — about 39 million miles. During April observers in the Southern hemisphere will have the best views of the comet during the year. Curiously, the closest recorded approach of the comet to the earth occurred on April 11, in AD 837.
- May 5: The Eta Aquarid meteor shower, believed to comprise material ejected from comet Halley, reaches its maximum.
- Mid-May: Halley ceases to be visible to the naked eye. Perhaps some of us will see it again when it returns (all being well) in 2061.
- A professional international astronomical Halley watch has been operating since Halley returned to view almost 18 months ago, based on national organising committees (in Britain the Comet Halley UK Coordinating Committee — CHUKCO), to which information from amateur astronomers is being channelled by national bodies (in this country The British Astronomical Association).



Why smiling could be good for you

Perhaps there is a subtle chemical relationship between our moods and our facial expressions. Robert Temple explains

IT IS POSSIBLE that our facial expressions cause us to feel emotions, rather than merely serving to express them. This is the basis of a theory recently proposed in the American Journal of Science by American psychologist, R. B. Zajonc, of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. The idea was first suggested in 1907 by an obscure French doctor named Paul Weyssenhof, whose book, Human Physiology, Its Mechanism and Social Role, sank without trace until recently rediscovered by Zajonc.

Wayssenhof in many ways was ahead of his time, anticipating such things as the steady state of the cerebral flow. His theory of facial expression was intended to remedy the inadequacies of the theory previously set forth by Charles Darwin in his book, The Expression Of The Emotions In Man And Animals, which is still available in paperback (Penguin, £3.50). Darwin had been more interested in showing up his theory of evolution by appealing to facial expression for its adaptive functions. But, as Wayssenhof pointed out, what is adaptive about showing one's face to an enemy, or one's face to a lover?

Human beings have 80 facial muscles on average, though some people lack crucial ones, such as the risorius muscle which extends the angle of the mouth. But why do

we need these muscles? What purpose is served by our expressing our faces such a wide variety of attitudes and feelings? It has recently been discovered in experiments that the nervous impulses for assumed or "acted" facial expressions come from an entirely different set of nerves from the impulses which give rise to spontaneous facial expressions. This in itself is a curious discovery which from most points of view would be inexplicable. But it fits nicely with Zajonc's revised version of the old Weyssenhof theory of expression, which suggests that the spontaneous expressions are the ones which give us the more intense feelings.

Wayssenhof had suggested that since the face and the brain received blood from the same source, namely the common carotid artery, the face was a kind of reservoir into and from which blood could flow to keep the amount of blood in the brain steady. This would in turn effect our emotional states and feelings. As Zajonc points out, this idea is not tenable in its crude form because the cerebral blood flow has been found to be so steady that it had not altered in experiments with subjects who had violently exercised for ten minutes, and who were huffing and puffing with their hearts pounding.

But Wayssenhof's idea may well apply in a more subtle form, Zajonc maintains. He thinks that the constriction or release of blood vessels in the face by the movements of

facial muscles, pressed as they are against the bones, cause changes of small amounts of regional blood flow in certain brain areas, fractionally raising or lowering brain temperature in selected places by less than a degree. This in turn, he believes, triggers the release or the suppression of certain brain chemicals which either make us feel good or make us feel lousy.

Zajonc actually believes that people who go around smiling all the time feel happier because the smiles are triggering the production of "happy" brain chemicals. And we all know sourpusses who not only frown all the time but are bad company as well. Zajonc thinks they are making themselves dreary by looking dreary.

Many hitherto unanswered questions about facial expression are answered in Zajonc's theory. Facial expression is a means of achieving empathy between individuals. The reason why we make our faces form expressions to match those of characters in films is that by doing so, we are feeling more empathetic with the experiences of the characters we are watching. This makes not only for richer subjective human experience, but for more harmonious relations between people, since we are better able to understand what other people are going through.

As for uncontrollable surges of blood in the face of blushing, it is an outlet of ex-



cess blood which would otherwise go to the brain, and which is sidetracked into the face. Blushing occurs when people are embarrassed and wish to flee, but cannot do so because of social decorum or timidity. So the excess blood which would normally be needed to aid flight floods the facial vessels as its means of escape, to preserve the brain. Likewise, pallor occurs when the brain needs more blood, such as intensive thinking or concentration; it merely takes blood from the face.

Zajonc amusingly states that "Wayssenhof's faith in his theory led him to assert that if the main carotid artery branched off not at the neck but at the shoulders, we would express our emotions with our arms and bluish with our shoulders." Clearly, Zajonc's revision of Wayssenhof's theory is more realistic. We should not just shrug off even though we blush with our faces and not our shoulders. Zajonc presents several suggestions for experimental testing of his theory. And he says that depressives might be made to feel more cheerful if they were given the right facial exercises, such as forcing themselves to smile more. He even thinks that the reason why migraine sufferers often lick their lips is to ameliorate the fatty muscles. There is much in Zajonc's theory which should be tested, considering that if it be true, it could benefit large numbers of people — manic depressives, social misfits, unsuccessful salesmen, and jittery lovers, to name but a few.

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THE REWARDS

Appointments will be considered as a Professional and Technology Officer Grade 1 for those with several years' experience or as a Professional Technology Officer Grade 1 for those with shorter experience.

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THE QUALIFICATIONS

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Experience of reliability safety assessment would be useful, but is not essential and training will be available. It is important that applicants should be innovative, and capable of initiating and progressing work without close supervision.

THE REWARDS

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THE JOBS

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THE QUALIFICATIONS

The work requires people who are innovative and can show initiative. You should have a degree in an appropriate technical subject or Corporate Membership of a Senior Professional Institution. It would be useful, but not essential, to have some experience of safety/reliability assessment or of software development, data base construction or application of information technology. Appropriate training will be available.

THE REWARDS

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For further details and an application form, please contact, quoting Reference 857, The Personnel Officer, Food Research Institute — Bristol, Langford, Bristol BS18 7DY. Tel: Churchill (0934) 852661.

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Project Manager — Alvey Large Scale Demonstrator (ALSD) Project

The person appointed will manage HUSAT's contribution to the Alvey Large Scale Demonstrator (ALSD) project. In addition to experience in managing project teams, the applicant will require knowledge and experience in the ergonomics/human factors of speech recognition and its implementation in systems design.

Project Manager — Large European Project

This post involves managing a team of up to 10 HUSAT people on a project being conducted with partners in the UK, France, Italy, West Germany and Holland. It is principally concerned with developing a comprehensive design, sale, installation and use of IT products. It requires experience of contributing to IT product design, and managing projects and people.

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SECRETARY

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If the Government wants computer research to go anywhere, it had better spend on tomorrow's inventors as well as today's children at a Warrington school, pictured by Don McPhee

With the stakes as high as they are, we'd better get artificial intelligence right first time. The Government could help, argues Keith Devlin

The ultimate intelligence test

AN editorial in one of the Fleet Street papers not long ago ended, apropos the teachers' pay dispute, with the words: "We hope that hell freezes over before the Government gives in to their demands." Taking the not unreasonable view that in Mrs Thatcher's Britain, these newspapers are as accurate a reflection of current government thinking as Pravda is of the view from the Kremlin, it would seem that the substance of which is the chapter of Donald Michie and Rory Johnston's book *The Creative Computer* (Pelican, £5.95) is likely to fall on deaf ears.

Not that school teaching is the subject of this excellent, and highly readable book; this, as the book's subtitle informs us, is "machine intelligence and human knowledge." But, after providing the reader with a stirring, if not provocative account of what the subject known generally as artificial intelligence can offer the human species in the long term, the authors give a brief catalogue of the treatment of practically all innovative science at the hands of British governments.

In 1830, the Duke of Wellington said, of inventors, "There are thousands of them at present in England as well as I believe elsewhere; the offspring of the march of intellect. Their object is money which, please God, they shall not get from the Public Treasury."

Michie and Johnston follow up this gem (which could equally come from the lips of present day incumbents of offices of power) with one of their own: "The cosmetic application of codswallop is an art for which Britain's public men and women have long been renowned." As with the teachers (the suppliers of tomorrow's inventors and innovators), so with the research workers of today.

"Ah," you might cry, "but what about the Alvey Programme? Wasn't that set up to provide just the stimulus which was required? Well, no, it wasn't really. The Government confined up because of the highly dubious perceived threat from the Japanese fifth generation project. It is not at all certain that there will be the sustained support of long term, pure research which must surely precede any significant future developments in the field of artificial intelligence. It should, however, be said that, remarkably for a venture such as this, the people in charge of the project actually do seem to know what they are doing."

Having started with the end of Michie and Johnston's book, what of the preceding nine chapters? The first thing to say is that it is not at all the typical computer book. True, there is an appendix which gives a brief account of modern computer technology, but I am not sure that I agree with the authors' assumption that anything it says is a necessary prerequisite for the main body of the text: the book is too well written for that.

Donald Michie is one of the great figures in British computing. A junior colleague of Alan Turing, he was Professor of Machine Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh from 1967 until 1984, and is currently executive director of the Turing Institute in Strathclyde. Rory Johnston is a science journalist with a background in the computer industry.

Though there is a chapter on computer art, the book's title

is, I think, a bit misleading. When you read the book you realise that by "creation" they mean the creation of knowledge, new knowledge. How a computer could create genuinely new knowledge is indicated in general terms, but not in any way likely to lose the average reader of this page. But it is with the sociological impact of such a development that the book spends most of its time. One of the central themes is that computers must do much of their thinking for us humans do; otherwise all sorts of catastrophes might result.

Chapter three illustrates this point. Within an eight month period during 1979-80, three false alerts were sent out to the United States forces that the country was under attack from Soviet missiles, all stemming from the NORAD control centre inside Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado. (A failure in a single integrated circuit was the cause of one of these false alarms.)

So far, human intervention has prevented nuclear calamity. But if the systems keep on increasing in their complexity, how long can we rely on this safety factor? When the

nuclear power station at Three Mile Island developed a fault in March 1979, the control system worked perfectly.

The problem was that the system provided so much information that the operators had no idea what to do first, with the result that what they did made matters worse by the minute. To be of any use in such a situation, control systems need to be designed to communicate with human beings, to think or their terms.

Michie and Johnston provide numerous other instances of this kind. They are not prophets of doom, nor are they in any way arguing against the development of thinking machines: quite the opposite. What they are saying is that with the stakes as high as they are, we'd better get it right first time. If you want to find out how things stand in AI at the present time, how they are likely to stand in the future, and what impact this development will have on us all, this is the book for you. But have they sent a copy to the DES?

Footnote: This article was written before the Government announced that it intended to close some universities.

The first Alvey Conference is to be held in Edinburgh at the end of the month. Anthony Tucker explains what the Alvey programme is all about

Pointing researchers in the right direction

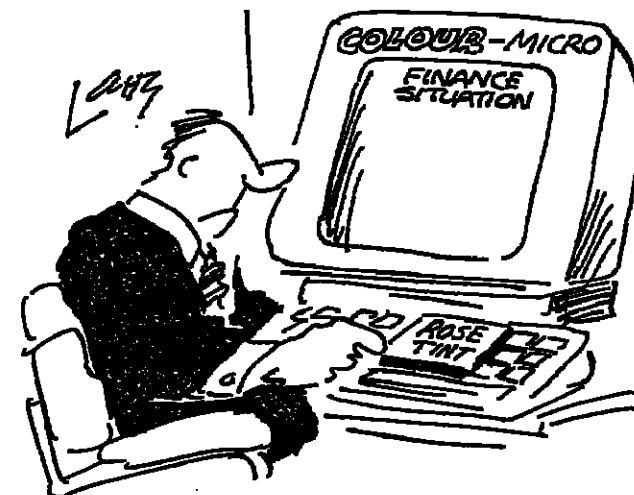
WHEN the boffins of the Alvey Directorate heard that there was to be a conference after only 18 months of Alvey activity, their reaction was to ask why and to complain, justifiably, that there was too much to do in too short a time to get involved with conferences. But the conference will make everyone in this unfamiliar (in Britain) world of directed research programmes pause, to take stock: is it working? How is it working and are the goodies beginning to come in?

For most of us the big question is what is Alvey all about and why is the directorate — with highly expert internal referees and coordinators — operating in the Department of Trade and Industry handling large sums of R & D money whose more familiar pathways would be academic? The answer is that it was felt, at the Cabinet Office level (and even slightly higher) that it was time Britain took a leaf from the Japanese textbook on how to manage critical research areas. The technique is to pump substantial sums into immediately pre-commercial work in such a way that the best academics and their teams collaborate with the experts of the industrial organisations which are interested and likely to benefit. This has to be done without disrupting the engines of the long-term strategic research programme. It demands new research money.

The target, inevitably in a world dominated by technological fashion and hence the market place, is the cluster of neatly labelled areas which comprise the cutting edges of the next generation of computers and computing — very large scale integrated circuits, intelligent knowledge-based systems and so on. With the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) already substantially into the area at least in a strategic way, it might seem that Alvey would be a divert expertise from one kind of problem to another. That is not what is happening.

First there is the new money. Over its first five years, the Alvey programme will allocate about £350 million of project support money of which almost 85 per cent will be provided on a shared £ for £ basis by industry and either the DTI or the Ministry of Defence. The remaining segment (the figures are simplified) comprises research projects already supported or selected by SERC and which meet Alvey's hard criteria.

One triumph of Alvey is the direct involvement of the MoD in a generic research programme covering area in which — for years — they have gone it alone. A second triumph, at least for those who see directed research as a key-



stone of industrial success, is the development of project criteria and protocols which bind research teams to targets as an essential component of project fulfilment. In principle, if the goodies are not delivered then support will be withdrawn.

There are, in fact, two levels of Alvey involvement, one in which there is full industrial collaboration on a shared cost basis and a second level in which research is supported in its own right as of potential value but with an industrial "uncle." In this type of project industry provides the time and the expertise of its research arm in an advisory and steering capacity with the option of picking up the next phase of a project on a full collaborative basis. It provides an additional mesh in the catchment net which completes the spectrum of research possibilities in those industrially pre-competitive phases where academic involvement is desirable and "healthy."

It might be thought that fundamental science might suffer from collaboration with Departments and industry at so many points of the spectrum but the Alvey Directorate and the DTI say that because the research is by definition pre-competitive there are unlikely to be problems. The question of publication is decided within each project. But Alvey will be judged, not so much by the science it generates, but by its industrial utility.

Another question which worried Alvey people in the early days was whether it is possible, in highly specialised research areas, to increase the project money available by a factor of three or four and yet still be able to find first class investigators. With its very sharp in-house expertise and criteria which preclude project approval if investigators are not up to scratch, there were doubts about being able to allocate the Alvey money within the required time. It turned out that because of slack in the academic system

(a product of underfunding from other agencies) and because, in spite of unbelievably tempting offers from abroad, Britain still has a very high quality pool of expertise in all the required areas, something like 80 per cent of the Alvey money went to new projects within the first 12 months.

Now, however, with that pool more or less absorbed, it is getting increasingly difficult, but in software engineering and other key areas it is still believed that the targets can be met. "We have a lot of good people, how long they will stay in this country is an open question. Alvey might help to keep some. In the meantime we just keep on vetting projects and seeking only the best," said one of the Alvey assessors.

It is an entirely new experiment for Britain to have a highly focussed academic programme of this kind, geared essentially to tactical targets that are defined very closely. By definition it will produce results that are strongly biased toward existing technological commitments. Thus, although technologically useful, it will not produce truly critical science and it is unlikely to lay the foundations of new technologies.

It is an essential axiom of the research structure in Japan (and in West Germany and the US) where targeted programmes are more familiar, that the strategic arm of research must be kept equally healthy. Japan has only recently recognised this in an overall way. But in Britain it seems to be working well because the funding of strategic research is weak. This, perhaps, is an issue which needs to be discussed at the Edinburgh meeting.

The Alvey Conference is being held at the University of Edinburgh from June 24-27, and is being handled for the Alvey Directorate by the conference department of the British Computer Society on 01-637 0471.

Originally it was a moth. Then it became a program error. Later it turned into a costly jape. Jack Schofield considers the entomology of the bug

A high-tech spanner in the works

BEDS certainly used to have them. Foreign embassies may be riddled with them. But today, most are found either in the salads or computer programs: those creatures of infinite variety, bugs.

In computerland a bug is simply a mistake, an error, in hardware, software or firmware. Bugs are made by people. But like insects, bugs are usually small, very hard to find, and almost impossible to get rid of. In fact all micros, and all complex programs, are infested with them.

According to Commander Grace Hopper, the usage arose as follows: the original bug was a mechanical blocking the relay contacts in an early electro-mechanical computer. The techies stuck the dead insect in the log-book to record the fact.

Not everyone takes this story literally. However, Commander Hopper (a WAVE) was working with computers before 80.80 per cent of all known computer programs were born — she came up with the idea for a new type of program, a compiler, in 1951 — so few will disagree.

The key point about a bug is that it produces an unintended and unwanted result or property or characteristic behaviour, and this is what distinguishes it from a "feature." (Computer humour avers that documenting a bug turns it into a feature.)

Getting rid of bugs involves a detailed examination of the code. DEC minis and PPM micros provide a program called DDT for this purpose.

Not every bug can be discovered

DDT originally stood for DEC Debugging Tape (DEC) or Dynamic Debugging Tool (CPM). The DEC handbook used to note that "Confusion between DDT-10 and another well-known pesticide, dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (C14) should be minimal, since each acts in a different, and apparently mutually exclusive, class of bugs."

Sadly this reference was removed from later handbooks as DEC became more "businesslike." (See The Hacker's Dictionary, Harper and Row, 1983).

The worst bugs come in firmware, ie, encoded in the

ROM or read-only memory which contains the Basic and operating system. In most cases, the bug is encoded in the first issues of the Acorn BBC B and Sinclair QL micros, and the Oric 1. Tracking down, documenting and programming round the most horrendous bugs kept early buyers of these machines entertained for months.

A typical bug was recently reported in Popular Computing Weekly. The Amstrad 486 has automatic line numbering, and the maximum length of a program line is 256 characters. However, the line number is not entered until the line buffer until you have completed the line. So, if you enter a full line, the addition of the line number makes it too long and the line is truncated. This bug has been fixed in the CPC 684.

A trickier bug in the Sinclair QL prevents you from dimensioning a string to an odd number of characters. This allows you to write joke programs with results like 8-10. A reader of the QL club magazine Quanta explains: "This is not a bug. When word size data is accessed in 80000 machine code it must start at an even address... So when you define a string with, say, seven characters (DIM word(7)), the QL gives you an extra character rather than waste it." In other words, this bug is a feature!

The problem is that computers are too complex for every possibility to be tested, and for every bug to be discovered. Companies find as many as they can, then let thousands of users spend years of thousands of hours locating the rest. This is a powerful argument against buying machines that have not been on the market for at least 18 months. It also explains why it pays to get the latest update of any software.

By convention, the first usable code is labelled, version 1. As this is debugged, later versions are numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and so on. When a change is made, the version number is incremented to 2.0, and the process begins again. Don't touch anything numbered 2.1 with a large pole, but numbers like 3.3 and 4.1 should inspire a certain amount of confidence.

However, most bugs are created by users, owing to our inadequate understand-

ing of what the computer is actually doing. Common problems include miscounting when a zeroth element is included (i.e. 0 is the first element, 1 is the second, 2 is the third and so on), using for next loops incorrectly, and not being aware of the way arithmetic is done.

Every few months a magazine makes the shock horror revelation that, say, the IBM PC cannot do simple arithmetic.

The bomb was a simple text file

This is usually due to ignorance of the fact that a decimal fraction cannot be represented in binary (base 2) unless it happens to be a negative power of two, like 0.125. Recurring numbers like 0.333333 are bound to be "wrong." Further, "error" may arise when some numbers are truncated while others are rounded, and when the result is converted back to decimal (base 10). If you are surprised by an answer of 0.999999 or 1.000001 or worse, instead of the expected 1, it means you weren't watching what was really going on.

(But Commodore 64 and Vic 20 owners who experiment may find these actually do have bugs in the floating point maths routines. Try a loop that starts with 1 and repeatedly divides the result by two, or a subtraction like 10.08-10.01.)

Other common bugs arise from the inadequate checking of user input. For example, there are gambling games where you can enter negative numbers as bets and thus win by losing, and golf simulations that accept decimal fractions for the choice of an iron or wood. Similar bugs are not unknown in business software, and must tempt the cynic who discovers them into crime.

When buying a program, enter incorrect data to see if it is correctly trapped. Otherwise you may end up paying for work done on May 36, or worse business may be paralysed by a program's refusal to recognise February 29 during a leap year. In fact, as many current programs use only the last two digits of the year, I fully expect the collapse of civilisation in the year 2,000, when 89 is followed by 00.

Bugs are so hard to spot in

large programs they may be inserted deliberately — not as bugs but as "bombs" for example, one reputable multi-national found people stole copies of its programs while attending its training courses. It therefore added a hidden routine that after the program has been loaded a certain number of times, re-formats the disc. This erases the program and any data on the same disc.

Certainly it would be possible for a programmer to insert a "bomb" like this to erase data if his name was removed from the payroll, or simply to blackmail a company.

Bugs and logic bombs are popular with hackers because — if you have a twisted sense of humour — they're a bit of fun. There's a bug routine that, under certain conditions, simply printed the message:

>System crash on every terminal. It took over a week to find, during which time all normal computing was suspended. The beauty of this particular jape was that the bomb was a simple text file. The system didn't crash (stop working correctly) at all, it merely announced that it had.

Another jape is to leave a bomb not hidden but in a program called something like DO NOT RUN THIS FILE. Some idiot will always run it just to see what it does, and the results are almost invariably catastrophic.

However, the funniest bugs of all are the little graphics drawings of insects that crawl around the screen while you're word processing etc. The routines to draw such bugs might be hidden in a spare space in the ROM, or loaded as a separate program for use with a graphics card (a bug program for the Apple Macintosh on the Computer database now.)

These bugs may start as jokes on the boss — "Come and look at this new bug we've found in the ROM!" but later they can be useful in copyright cases. You think someone has stolen your code, so you type in a Call to the firm's phone number and your secret bug appears to prove you wrote it after all.

Today, joke bugs are out of fashion, but the number of real ones increases with every product launched. Nothing in computing is completely bug free.

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MPs to look into 'bribery' scandal claims

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent
has cleaned up its Property Services Agency after the discovery of extensive fraud and corruption are to be investigated by the House of Commons public accounts committee.
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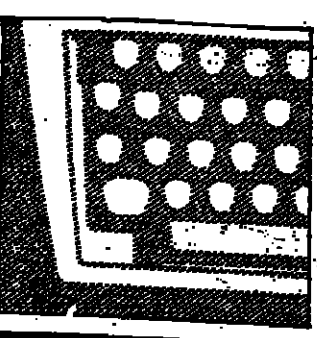
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continue on page 21

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DIARY

BAD NEWS for Henley lovers: their little ritual is to be invaded in July by Glas War anarchists who recently had their own "Bash the Rich" regatta in Notting Hill. The anarchists' newsletter promises to "ruin the event for the rich parasites and their pampered offspring and lackeys...let every tramp and rogue, punk, mod, skinhead, hippy, boogaloo, angel, vandal...get to Henley."

It adds: "The air will ring with the sound of 'OK Yabs' and the Rolls will be double-parked. The last thing that the rich bastards will want is to find their playground invaded by thousands of nasty anarchists...the canvas-walled enclosure is itself open to various forms of attack: hardware shops, chandlers, joke shops, and supermarkets stock a large range of makeshift tools and weapons."

Croquet next?

EVER well-meaning, the Foreign Office yesterday fixed a boat trip down the river to the Greenwich Maritime Museum for Mrs Shalomit Shavit, wife of the Israeli Foreign Minister. How were they to know that Mrs Shavit had a deep fear and loathing of boats ever since being incarcerated in the hold of one while fleeing to Palestine. She went, but could not face the trip back. The FO sent a car to pick her up. It crashed at Marble Arch on the way back.

THIS, I admit, is a complete flyer. Which is not to say that there are not those who might be in a position to know who are suggesting it. What they are saying is that Mr Arthur Scargill may have his eye on the seat of North-East Derbyshire, due to become vacant with the retirement at the next election of Mr Ray Ellis, aged 61. Mr Ellis's agent says it is all speculation.

THE American Embassy has just returned to GND a huge parcel of letters addressed to US senators. The parcel was given to the embassy for forwarding by East Anglia CND. This the Americans have refused to do. It would indeed cost a fair whack to do so. Each envelope includes part of the inner text of Moleyns' letter base.

AFTER Dudley, further eccentricities in Mr Stuart Bell's recent reselection at Middlesbrough. Mr B was selected from a shortlist of one, though there was one opponent with nine nominations. A Labour Cleveland county councillor, Mr Andy Wilson, investigated some of the union delegates and found a number of unlikely people claiming "They should be able to swap all over the place," said Mr Wilson, a Nalco branch secretary. The local party has reacted in a concerned way to Mr Wilson's allegations, but is subject to ratification next week, to throw him out of the Labour Party.

IT HAS been suggested that Mr Les O'Brien should be put in charge of the Labour Party's round-Britain cycle ride. Why? Because, quips a colleague, he's the only person with an intimate knowledge of all the country's marginal constituencies.

IT'S NOT just that Mr John P. I. was Framed. The Loran is sufficiently shrewd to see that the start of his beloved, gullible, says against this time in Columbus, Ohio, for a mere \$85,000 per fire-bird auto. Or that he does so after his cocaine trafficking acquittal but while a grand jury is still investigating the whereabouts of some of the \$80 million invested in De Loran by the gullible British Government.

But it now transpires that his new partner in venture, one Gordon Novel, has a colourful past himself. A New Orleans businessman, Novel has his own criminal record, strange links with Cuban exiles and with Mr Larry Flint, porno publisher. Why, he was even in one of the conspiracy theories about the assassination of President Kennedy.

Never mind. Columbus, Ohio, (unemployment 7.3 per cent) has an open mind. "We would look to see how valid his proposal is," says the jobs development director, Raymond Lovello.

"There is an abundance of people willing to stump up the necessary \$2 million to the John started again," says Wait Bratten, a De Loran aide in California. Novel is a New York financial analyst. "I think it would be fun just to go out and show your money off Brooklyn Bridge."

Alan Rusbridger

The birthright that science deserves to lose

COMMENTARY

Hugo Young



WHEN abortion was a political issue, it was often remarked that the arguments of the anti-abortionists depended heavily on emotionalism. They deployed very strong language and sometimes harrowing personal stories of human suffering, including the suffering of unborn children, to support their moral position. These tactics, for nearly 20 years, have got them almost nowhere.

One significant difference between the campaign against abortion and the campaign against Mr. Spock Powell's bill to ban embryo research is that this time the emotionalism is ranged more heavily on the other side. If the bill does pass, it will be the procedural gates to a new era of embryo research, and it will be the pro-experimenters who will be the ones to use the emotionalism to support their case. They will be the ones to use the emotionalism to support their case.

When the bill was last before the Commons, the Plaid Cymru MP Dafydd Wigley, understandably affected by the grievous death in his own family, let his passions carry him so far as to break the arm of the Speaker's chair. In the run-up to tomorrow's renewed hostilities, Lady Warnock, chairman of the committee that produced the comprehensive blueprint which the Powell bill would replace, has described the role of cool moral philosopher for that of splenetic and uncomprehending campaigner.

She accuses Mr Powell's supporters of existing in a realm of "moral fantasy". Their position "cannot be wholly distinguished from dogmatism, intolerance and fanaticism". They are possessed by forces that are "terrifying".

I make this observation not in order to diminish the legitimacy of moral fervour, fortified by the irresistible appeal of special cases. Whether embryos should be created and used for generalised scientific experimentation rises, after all, profound questions for both the moralist and the utilitarian. But the parallel with abortion is humbling because, in both cases, the prospect of defeat has rendered the campaigners steadily more intolerant of the other side's position.

If the Powell bill does get on to the floor again, the betting is that it will probably be passed. It had a majority of 172 at second reading. This no doubt exceeds the present natural majority for it, after the perfectly legitimate campaigning efforts of parts of the medical community. But their arguments won't have been enough to wipe it out completely. And if commitment is the test, there are expected to be more pro-Powellites than anti-Powellites prepared to stick it out for the weekend.

This majority has not been manufactured. Nor is there any evidence that it is out of line with opinion in the country: opinion which may, as Lady Warnock says, be poked by moral fantasy, and is certainly not the product of any such refined philosophical as she has undertaken or such concern for the primacy of medical advance as the Medical Research Council is in business to express. There is a mismatch between experts and people. Why?

The experts appear very benign. And in truth most of them probably are. The Powell rules, they say, will have two indefensible effects. They will sharply curtail in vitro fertilisation and thereby halt the advance of births achieved this way by otherwise infertile couples. Secondly, they will render impossible the use of embryos for expanding scientific knowledge about genetic disorders. Thus, Mr Powell and those who vote with him will be accomplices in the birth of more defective babies, as well as to the retardation of processes which might prevent them ever being conceived.

As well as the moral dilemmas raised here, there are areas of factual obscurity. While it is plain enough that all advance in the diagnosis of defective embryos can lead to their swift destruction, it is less clear precisely what curative discoveries have yet been made by experimentation on embryos. Nor is it the agreed and settled opinion of all distinguished experts in the field that the destruction of human embryos is an indispensable pre-requisite of improvement in IVF procedures.

The anti-Powellites say these ambiguities as to fact should all be resolved in favour of the scientists and

experimenters. Childlessness is a tragedy, they say. All methods should be available to ameliorate it. The birth of defective children is an even bigger tragedy. Even if most of this research does lead merely to the identification and early abortion of such fetuses, and not to the curative elimination of the conditions which produce the defects, that is justification enough.

What Mr Powell's supporters are saying is essentially this. They may grant that the Powell rules will inhibit the relief of childlessness and impede research into genetic defects. But they insist that what is at stake in embryonic experimentation is so great and hazardous an intervention in the natural order as to place a colossal burden of proof as to its justification on those who favour it.

This burden neither Lady Warnock nor the professional researchers have discharged. They think only of the benefits, problematic though these are. They do not recognise that there are any costs at all. To make their case for continued experimentation, they have to confess that the embryo, while scientifically valuable only because it belongs to the human species, is not in fact human. This, in their guts, many people recoil from.

But reason is also involved. It is not at all a matter of those dreaded instincts, which Lady Warnock fastidiously mistrusts. The Powell bill may be imperfect in some of its detailed mechanisms, but it goes to the central question. There is a reasonable expectation, based on many ministerial statements, that if it does not pass and the government brings in its own Warnock-based bill, the mechanics may be smoother (although a licensing authority sounds almost as menacing as a minister) but the central question will have been evaded.

This would be in keeping with the mechanistic age in which we live. It would accord with the blind faith in the benignity of scientists and the advance which so many rationalists are so blithely prepared to entertain. It would transport us, no doubt to some people's satisfaction, from the realm of moral fantasy into that of moral indifference. But it would cross a line which the majority sensibly fears to tread.

THE Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, is under attack once again for carrying out the Government's law and order policies.

First it was the Police Federation who booed and jeered Mr Brittan at their conference, and gave a vote of no confidence in the Government's strategy on law and order. Then it was the prison officers who heckled him for cutting individual prison budgets and their overtime work—a subject near to their hearts and pockets.

This time, the criticism is that the Home Secretary is too concerned with prisoners' welfare. The attack is directed against Wayland Prison, in Norfolk, which the Home Secretary has just officially opened. It is the first of the country's 18 "new" generation prisons which will cost the taxpayer over £350 million by the time they are completed in the early 1990s.

The goal, with its stylish chapel, tasteful stained glass, and windowed ceilings which allow the light to stream into the prisoners' association room, is seen by some local campaigners and residents as a symbol of the Government's "soft" approach to law and order. They say the prison is a "luxury" and a "waste of money".

The Government has been less successful in promoting the advantages of what it sees as the alternative—large numbers of new jails. The reception Wayland received was typical. When the eight new generation jails were completed recently, a fish pond in the grounds became a swimming pool for prisoners, according to local reports.

Spending on prisons is one of the country's few growth areas. In the past 10 years, spending on running and building jails has increased by 178 per cent, compared with 10 per cent for education, which has increased only 33



Left: bright and shiny Wayland. Picture E. Hamilton-West. Right: cluttered Wormwood Scrubs. Picture Kenneth Saunders



Left: bright and shiny Wayland. Picture E. Hamilton-West. Right: cluttered Wormwood Scrubs. Picture Kenneth Saunders

AILEEN BALLANTYNE on the Home Secretary's latest dilemma

Mr Brittan's short term problem

per cent in the same period. Prison building is the lynchpin of the Government's law and order policy—and, in spite of the fact that there are no votes in better prisons, the programme so far has escaped Treasury cuts.

But both the £350 million building programme and an estimated £200 million repair and refurbishment scheme aimed at bringing twentieth century sanitation to the Victorian and pre-first world war jails that make up 40 per cent of the prison stock, have to be justified.

The repair programme may be essential to prevent many jails from actually collapsing around the ears of inmates and prison officers, but Mr Brittan still has to retain credibility with his Cabinet colleagues. To do this he has to be seen to be cutting back on the running costs of existing prisons.

Since 75 per cent of the £600 million plus annual prison budget goes on staff-related costs, this means that when an individual prison's budget is spent, the financing ceases. This has already meant the closure of workshops at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. In turn, it means that prisoners are locked in their cells for longer periods each day—one of the measures which the prison building programme is designed to prevent.

In addition to cutting overtime the Home Secretary has introduced a new system of budgeting, which means that when an individual prison's budget is spent, the financing ceases. This has already meant the closure of workshops at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. In turn, it means that prisoners are locked in their cells for longer periods each day—one of the measures which the prison building programme is designed to prevent.

MICHAEL WHITE reports from Washington on the vote that could prove another blow to Pretoria

How the senators turned against apartheid

BY THE time the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had plucked up the courage and coherence to vote for an immediate package of sanctions against South Africa, the White House and Pretoria had achieved the difficult feat of having only one friend left in the room: Senator Jesse Helms, the diehard Republican racist from North Carolina who is probably a little rightwing

for more thoughtful Afrikaners.

And even Senator Helms knows when he is beaten. He left the room for the closing debate and cast his lone (15-1) vote against the final package by proxy. The battle is far from over in Congress and beyond but the past six months have seen a remarkable coalition come together to send a variety of "unmistakable signals" to Pretoria—and more urgently to the White House—that apartheid must at least start to go.

Paradoxically much of the momentum for a winning campaign has sprung from a defeat. Since Walter Mondale's hammering last year the Democrats have found a unifying issue in the Free South Africa Movement, as the Arabs do in Israel. But it has gone much further than that. The Republicans, anxious to win some black votes back in 1986, have suddenly found the issue is hurting. The publicity generated by Randall Robinson's TransAfrica lobby has been spectacular. The American Committee on Africa has galvanised a network of churches, students, trade unions and local politicians—black and white. In a country so often divided by its notions of a good moral issue this one's time had come.

The debate is about what

those signals are supposed to be. Political or economic? Symbolic or jocular? Local or national? Or an ambiguous mixture? The willingness of radical Democrats in the House of Representatives to compromise with the Senate's cautious Republicans this summer will decide whether Congress gets a bill this session or not. But signals will continue to pour forth anyway—from demos across the country and from the parallel campaign to get institutions to divest themselves of shares in US companies with South African holdings.

On Congress or the 284 US companies with direct South African investments can decide, whether they should pull out completely—divest, in the jargon of the trade. "And no one here is seriously discussing divestment," says a hard-nosed Senate staffer. But divestment is something anyone can try. So far the tally is six states: Connecticut (back in 1982), Michigan, Nebraska, Maryland, Massachusetts and Iowa which have voted to sell the shares of their pension funds and educational endowments in US companies with South African holdings. Legislation is pending in 10 more states.

Some 24 cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, DC, have done the same. So have 40 universities great and

small, though college institutions move more slowly. In a faint echo of the 80s there have been demos, rallies and at Cornell in upstate New York a student occupation. Inevitably some go for partial divestment, only of those firms which defy the Sullivan Code of Fair Labour Practices, devised by a black Philadelphia entrepreneur-clergyman, the Rev. Leon Sullivan. Others steer clear of banks which lend to South Africa or add a notional five per cent penalty to bids for local contracts made by tainted companies.

Holed up inside their Embassy the South Africans say that they are witnessing what is essentially a domestic political row over the black vote. But for them, as for congress and the anti-apartheid campaigners, the hard questions about sanctions are now having to be faced. Divestment is estimated to be selling about \$1.5 billion worth of stock, but how much of it is actually part of the \$14 billion direct US investment in South Africa is incalculable. In any case neither the companies nor South Africa suffer if shares are divested, provided someone else buys them. If they are sold at a loss it may only hurt the state or city's pension funds.

Anti-apartheid lobbyists explain that it is a crucial stage in turning the climate

of US business towards real divestment. FF The next stage is selective purchasing of products," says Jennifer Davis. They do not share the hesitation of some black South Africans about the wisdom of hitting Pretoria's economy. Can one weight the eight hours a day benefits of the 70,000 black South Africans employed by American corporations against the 365-day-a-year consequences of apartheid for 22 million blacks?" asks Hazel Ross, a staffer in the office of industrial black Congressman, William Gray.

Some rightwing critics argue that US investment in South Africa has peaked, that licensing of local firms would become the name of the game, that South Africa would dig in and survive. But divestment is a long way down the road anyway. America now has to grapple with sanctions. They have a poor record both in being circumvented and in not changing obdurate policies. But there is no doubt that they would hurt, even in a limited form. The rearguard action of the US business community is persuasive on that point.

What congress must decide quickly is how far it wants to go. Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, started out with a bill, co-sponsored by his Republican majority

ANDREW VEITCH on the mounting toll of casualties in mock battles

A blast from the past

THE English Civil War seemed nearly settled last year, according to official figures released yesterday. More than 400 were injured in battle.

Exploding powder horns and a musket which disintegrated on firing caused serious injuries, reported the Surgeon-General, Dr Brian Robertson.

Neither the Royalist nor Parliamentary forces suffered fatalities, but several pikemen were crushed when the opposing armies met, he said.

Dr Robertson, a Royalist officer and Hampshire GP, treats both sides without favour in a casualty station equipped with resuscitation equipment, rehydration packs of the sort used in the London marathon, and an electronic thermometer for measuring rectal temperature.

The other concessions to twentieth century medicine are his tent—a bright yellow contraption as used by Canvas Holidays—and an arrangement with the local district hospital to take casualties.

As Surgeon-General to the Sealed Knot, the society which re-enacts battles of the English Civil War 1642-1651, he insists on wearing full uniform in action. His assistants fight until called to help, and the casualties are identified by the aid of a battle as they were in the 17th century by women camp-followers.

With up to 3,500 in action during a major muster, the potential for injury from cannon, musket, sword and pike is great. Dr Robertson told doctors at the world congress of emergency and disaster medicine in Brighton yesterday.

Of the 577 casualties last year were admitted to hospital, most of them with head injuries after being knocked out in the fray. Injuries included wounds, 21 powder burns, 12 blast injuries and one case of smoke inhalation.

Musketeers carry their power in wooden tubes or in horns or flasks. Last year several of these powder flasks ignited accidentally, causing flash burn on the face and hands," said Dr Robertson.

In one accident, a musket was discharged at point-blank range causing a serious burn on the victim's face. "Another musketeer sustained serious injury when his musket disintegrated on firing. This was a freak. The barrel had been checked a fortnight before."

Pikemen—they carry the authentic 18th pipe without the authentic steel leaf-shaped tip—were injured during the scrum caused by the clashing armies. Dehydration was a problem in the summer—soldiers wore armour and heavy woollen costumes—and some suffered hypothermia in the winter.

The medical service cannot be modelled on an original regiment," said Dr Robertson. "We do, however, dress in 17th century costumes."

"During the Civil War, if you were injured you would lie where you fell with little chance of survival. The women camp-followers provided first aid as they could. Today, our women camp-followers identify the casualties and alert the medical assistants who are out on the battlefield mingling with the armies."

Our aim is to provide 20th century medical care, albeit wearing 17th century dress, he added. "Civil War battles are probably no more dangerous than any other sport."

Table Talk about class

E. P. Thompson on a literary critic's approach to social relations

The Unholy Pleasure: The Idea of Social Class, by D. N. Furbank (Oxford, £9.50).

THE FIRST sentence of Mr Furbank's book is: "People in Britain at the moment talk much to much about 'class'." So he had decided to contribute his own sum to this excess. His book is a conversation-piece, in the tradition of Table Talk.

It belongs, defiantly, to the older line of English intellectual amateurs. It proposes to solve our problems by submitting the overblown pretensions of self-important "Professionals" to the rigorous definitions of an amateur. It ends up by solving nothing but displaying the author as being well-read and rather clever.

I make no objection to the interrogation. It is notorious that "Class" today is a place of extraordinary confusions, in which rival practitioners deploy ideological, heuristic, instrumental, structural, statistical and plainly pejorative (but masked) definitions. If any have not yet noticed this, then they should read Furbank's book.

His scatter-shot often hits the mark (for example, in exposing the hideous stretching of the garment "bourgeoisie" when it is sought to cover up the ample forms of the English "middle classes"). The first part of his book, on the Meaning of "Class", is a good example of ill-assorted and indigestible categories.

The trouble is that Furbank cannot bear to look directly at the object of his inquiry. Other acid critics — one thinks of Alfred Cobban or of the earlier (and better) essays of J. H. Hexter — have assisted inquiry by cleaning up messy definitions. Furbank supposes the inquiry

itself to be fruitless and perhaps indecible.

In the main banquet hall historians, sociologists, critics and some (but not all) novelists carry on their garrulous and boring discourse about class. Mr Furbank sits with one or two chosen friends in an annex, making wry faces and ridiculing the gaudy feast. In the end his complacent pharisaism becomes boring also.

Furbank supposes that class does not exist as a thing, and it does not. He supposes that class naming is a transaction, and that some people name others (or themselves) as classes for pejorative or instrumental reasons. This is sometimes true.

He follows Dahrendorf in finding that Marx's theory of class is not a descriptive but a heuristic concept: "These 'classes' are necessary fictions which it is Marx and the Marxists' aim to make come true." But an analytical category is not the same as a wilful "fiction": if it was, then all anthropologists, demographers, historians, sociologists etc would have to throw up their hands and go back to Square One.

For Furbank, Square One is "introspection." Class does not exist except within the heads of theorists or else as an elaborate social game or transaction: "to study 'class' the human breast is a very good place to study it — that is to say, it must be done very considerably by introspection."

And, yes, introspection is one way of approaching the problem. Class is, among other things, a social game, and so can be gender or nationality or even race, which can be ways of deprecating the humanity of others and enhancing one's own. Since Furbank's expertise is as a literary critic he should be well-equipped to pursue

this dimension, and especially the introspection into social relations provided by the novel.

In the course of his conversation he does, indeed, have interesting perceptions about this. He has a stimulating digression on honour and *honnêteté*, for which I thank him. Yet even here his wilful amateurism hinders his own project. To move at one step from the Mediterranean code of honour and shame and the *honnêteté* of Languedoc to the Mill on the Floss may be found by some readers to be "brilliant." I find it suggestive but also facile, for what we have in George Eliot's novel is a code which is not so much honourable as something within a declining set of worth, esteem, respect, respectability, propriety or humbug versus those outside the set. Between the two codes there is a gulf which requires historical and cultural analysis. It can't be bridged by introspection.

If only Mr Furbank would temper his waspish conversation with a little humility. He has got hold of a portion of the truth and insists that what he sees is everything. It is true that class can be transactional. Class may not only be ideas but a powerful ideological force.

But because class is these things it does not follow that it has no real historical reference. Can it not be both ideas and social force (in the sense of relationship), just as nationalism and racism are? One cannot dismiss, with a wave of a definitional wand, the imperative pressures and palpable evidences which scholars have sought to explain: the juridical, economic, cultural, political, institutional evidences of persons relating to each other in class ways. If Furbank finds the term "class" slippery and

ambivalent, he cannot wish the evidence of these social happenings away.

It was to be expected that Furbank, in his account of Marx's theory of class, should follow Dahrendorf's *Class and Class Conflict* in Industrial Society, which, as I remarked in the preface to *The Making of the English Working Class*, is a "study of class obsessively concerned with methodology, to the exclusion of the examination of a single real class situation in a real historical context."

Furbank makes the same exclusion. It might seem, at first sight, that he is well-read in British and French historiography. But on a closer view he has slipped through the books to fasten on a few passages of methodological enquiry, which he submits to knowing fault-finding.

But if the methods of history are inadequate (as they sometimes are) and the findings contradictory (as they usually are) in any difficult intellectual enterprise — does Furbank really wish for history to pretend to be an exact science? He offers no way into an alternative explanation. He has the arrogance to suppose that the critic's (valid) mode of introspection is to be an exact science.

More than this, he supposes that the enquiry itself is invalid and that the object of enquiry, the historical events of class, do not exist. The book is a good conservation-piece, and young George has asked for it. Yorkshire, the land between the wars yearning for a Wild West dreamed up from the Tom Mix era, he gets himself hired for a temporary job in a hick town called Pail-sades and makes his way there on the iron horse calling at Butcher's Ford, Sleepy Eye, Spearfish, Rapid City (change for Deadwood) and other corn-belt echoes of Adlestrop.

Believably nostalgic? A catch of steam in the throat? Something of that, with undertones of old battlefields that have turned into dozy wayside stations, with no Beethoven to exorcise the ghosts.

Jane Ellison, in her first novel *A Fine Keweenaw*, takes a smack at poets, critics and other rather obvious targets of the oldest satirical joke in the world. I enjoyed her knowledge of the account of those specialised bits of the London scene where Grub Street runs into Pseudo's Corner and on to Rogie's Alley. They are planning some thoughtful skulduggery over the poetry prize, which

Critical state

by Jeremy Seabrook

Breaking the Nation (Pinto Press / New Socialist, £2.50).
State of the Nation (Pan/Pinto Press, £6.95).

THESE books — one with words, the other with excellent use of maps and graphics — add up to a formidable indictment of the Thatcher years.

You can learn, for instance, such diverse and damaging facts as that violent crimes reached 111,000 in 1983; that women who make up 40 per cent of the labour force constitute 75 per cent of the low paid; that since May 1979, electricity prices have risen by 89 per cent and gas by 130 per cent. The style of *Breaking the Nation* (and the use of the word "nation" in both titles must be seen as a belated bid by the

Left for that popular patriotism so conspicuously confiscated by the Conservatives in April 1982) can only be described as that of Socialist gigantism: it's all massive cuts, swingeing increases, staggering facts, prices shot up, unemployment soars; everything is being savaged or smashed or slashed.

Indeed, both books make much of the theme of divided Britain: the two nations. What they don't dwell on is the fact that the two nations successfully reconstituted under this administration are the mirror-image of Disraeli's two nations: the dispossessed are no longer a threatening majority and as such do not need to be reckoned with by those who control our destiny.

That most people have done rather well in the past six years and only a minority have paid the price is the happy discovery which lies at the heart of Tory complacency and Labour anger. If it were only a question of facts presented and arguments won, Mrs Thatcher could not even now be more or less serenely contemplating her third term.



Old battlefields

Norman Shrapnel reviews new fiction

The Battle of Pellocks by J. L. Carr (Viking, £8.95).

A Fine Keweenaw, by Jane Ellison (Secker, £8.95).
Low Tide, by Fernanda Eberstadt (Heinemann, £8.95).

Confessions of a Tactician on Wall Street, by David Payne (Chatto, £8.95).

J. L. CARR'S *The Battle of Pellocks* is a good writer as possessing a novelist's most essential gift, his own inalienable voice. Wayward, ambiguous, eccentric — it can be all these, even as harsh as life itself. "Have a nice day," an old neighbour tells the hero who has just been beaten up; it is her invariable morning greeting and makes sense most days.

The violence is an essential part, but only one part, of this fascinatingly outlandish novel. And really, after all, young George has asked for it. Yorkshire, the land between the wars yearning for a Wild West dreamed up from the Tom Mix era, he gets himself hired for a temporary job in a hick town called Pail-sades and makes his way there on the iron horse calling at Butcher's Ford, Sleepy Eye, Spearfish, Rapid City (change for Deadwood) and other corn-belt echoes of Adlestrop.

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Matthew Coady's



DOCK BRIEFS

WHITEHALL is as much a part of thrillers territory as Istanbul once was. It is this pin-striped dimension of the twilight world which Gavin Lyall explores in *The Circus List* (Hodder, £8.95), a third adventure for Major Harry Maxim. Here bureaucracy dismisses the notion that a well placed, if dotty, secret cell wants to destabilise British foreign policy. To prove them wrong the hero stalks a corpse-festooned trail from Westminster Abbey to Eastbourne via the Cotswolds and Illinois.

The outcome is a stylish, feisty conspiracy of a spied with glimpses of Defence establishment warriors and waspish civil servants at the soft end of the secret war. "Power tends to castrate," reflects one "absolute power makes you forget you ever had them." Maxim suffers no such inhibitions. Who would have it otherwise?

Michael Gilbert's *Home*, by Michael Gilbert (Hodder, £8.95) — combines boardroom duplicity with pell-mell chase. Youthfully retired electronics wizard discovers that multi-national, to which he's sold out, has sinister links with Mafia. Slow-burning start though once it comes to the boil stays there. Dead Roman, by Simon Brett (Macmillan, £7.50) — Sulphureously libidinous tangle at South Coast resort language school leads to violent death. Sexual clings like sea mist while pupil and teacher brood over virginity's loss. Has neat strategy of deception behind all the heavy breathing.

The Trouble at Aquitaine, by Nancy Livingston (Gollancz, £8.95) — Lively sex and salad murder mystery set in upper crust health clinic with grouse-guzzling owner and odd ball staff. Sends up English snobberies. Kind of debut that whets the appetite for more.

Brilliant, by Ross Thomas (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95) — Whatever happened to home town? Slain policeman's brother returns to nail her killer and finds political heavies taking over. Acutely suspenseful American can-of-worms novel despite tortuous digressions.

A man of spirit

John Arlott on Neville Cardus

His Own Man: The Life of Neville Cardus, by Christopher Brookes (Methuen, £12.95).
A Cardus for All Seasons, by Neville Cardus (Souvenir Press, £8.95).

HAPPILY the first biography of Neville Cardus appears at the same time as a posthumous collection of his work. Cardus, journalist of the Manchester Guardian, determinedly self-educated, became a cricket writer by accident and virtually created the literature of that game; was a distinguished music critic, wrote a brilliant and unusual autobiography, was created CBE (1964), knighted (1967) and wrote, happily and perceptively, almost until his death in 1975 at 85.

The quality of his work is demonstrated beyond dispute by the five substantial posthumous collections of his writings. He never consciously wrote at less than his best. His copy, immaculately written under pressure, close-of-play cricket reports, end-of-concert music reviews — bespoke his pride in his work. Not only was there such a wealth of left-over writing when he died but, all his life, he was an inveterate raconteur.

The fact causes his biographer, a man of clear mind and admiration for his subject, problems in reconciling some of his writing with ascertainable fact. Sir Neville never allowed the duller kind of fact to ruin a good story. It would never happen in music, but cricket tends to be dogged by relentless researchers.

He himself has admitted that, leaving Headingley on the fall of the eighth wicket of the 1929 Test Match, he missed the record last wicket stand by Oakes-Smith and Bell. He only realized it had happened from the Stop Press of an evening paper he bought on the train: tumbled out and filed "this extra copy" from the phone box of the platform. It was he explained, "Not

difficult, I knew the bowlers, knew the batsmen and simply described the way they would have behaved."

It comes as a shock, though, that Dr Brookes must puncture one of the most splendid of all Cardus legends. In his autobiography he described taking a cab from Old Trafford to be married soon after Hallowes and Makepeace had opened the Lancashire innings: "I — that is, we, returned to Old Trafford. While I had been away from the match and had committed the most responsible and irrevocable act in mortal man's life. Lancashire had increased their total by seven runs. Makepeace 5, Hallowes 11 and one leg bye."

Dr Brookes's informant, however, reveals that in June, 1921, Hallowes and Makepeace opened the innings only once, and that was on the 1st. Sir Neville's wedding day, and in any event, Makepeace made 2 and 34, Hallowes 101 not out and 0 to 17 for no wicket was impossible. Shame. The two books are fascinatingly complementary.

Sir Neville used to describe himself as a Manchester Guardian man; certainly he worshipped the paper as a boy; aspired to it as a youth; joined it and served it faithfully through the most richly productive period of his life: for he grew older, many of his letters show, and his biographer records, his growing disillusionment with his own paper: that was probably the greatest tragedy of his life.

A Cardus for all Seasons brings together 87 of his essays, most written between 1920 and 1969 for *The Nation*, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic*, *The Field* and *The Guardian*. It preserves from 1920, his first year as a cricket writer, "Cricket" has left the classical period far behind. Strauss does not write like Mozart; and, for precisely the same reason, Hobbs and Henderson do not bat like Grace and Gunn. A game, not less than an art, cannot stand still: it must be full of the spirit of its day." Genuine Cardus.

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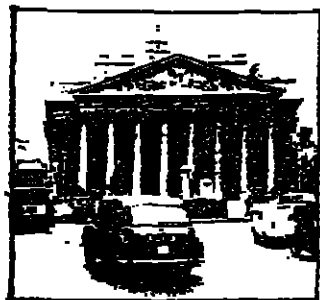
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WHSMITH

سكنا من الامم

The SE's provincial elephant hunters seem to have shot themselves in the foot



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

IT IS not the famous victory that Sir Nicholas Goodison and his chums hoped it would be, but it is not a disaster either.

Had the principal vote on the Stock Exchange failed, a lot of large firms would probably have ended up resigning from the exchange altogether. So, for that matter, would Sir Nicholas and most of the council. As it is the new entrants to the ex-

change get no taxation but no representation either. If the status quo continues, the new corporate members of the exchange get just one vote, rather than the two votes that would be theirs if they were private individuals.

Thus some mighty US securities business with a capitalisation of several billion would rank, in the eyes of the exchange, as equal to the junior partner of a small

It also means that the small Norwich stockbroker cannot raise a few thousand by selling some of his shares to the applicants of Wall Street.

What the exchange has to do now is to find a way of giving the new corporate members a proper say in the way the exchange is run, to compensate them, so to speak, for their lack of formal voting power.

This will have to be an interim arrangement for two reasons. First the present voting structure is ludicrous and will increasingly appear so. Second, even if the resolution would actually be like a quid pro quo for selling their shares at some stage, thank you very much.

The danger, of course, is

that new would-be members may feel that membership on the terms at present offered is neither necessary nor desirable. The possibility that the new gilt market will be outside the Stock Exchange has increased a few points. Maybe that would be no bad thing. But is it really what the backwoodsmen want?

SA defence

IT IS no coincidence that as the US campaign to restrict bank loans to South Africa gathers pace, the South Africans themselves are fast repaying their short-term (mainly trade) debts. The governor of the South African central bank, Dr Gerhard de Kock, revealed in London yesterday that Rand 4.5 billion (£1.5 billion) of short-term debts had been paid off in the last six or seven months as a result of the rapid turnaround in the country's current account from deficit to surplus.

This is about a quarter of total short-term debts and more than a tenth of the total foreign debt of Rand 40 billion.

Part of the reason must be the government's desire to lengthen the maturity of its debt to prevent a sudden run by creditors during some future crisis. The Latin Americans have done much the same. The reserve bank itself is paying off some official short-term debts while the government is borrowing increasingly in the long-term bond market rather than loan markets.

Dr de Kock said that there was always a rundown of foreign debt in a recession, but this time round he had a feeling that there is more to it than that. He conceded that the rapid repayment may not be entirely voluntary. Could the banks be getting strong hints from their foreign creditors that they should repay now, Dr de Kock asked? Could it be related to the disincentive to the South African government to borrow?

He gave no clear answer to his own questions except to affirm that as soon as the economy turns up, fierce competition among foreign suppliers of capital goods would ensure that South Africa got all the trade credits it needed. Indeed, the reduction in foreign debt was helping South Africa's credit

rating in Europe, he claimed. "Despite the disincentive campaign in the US we can raise as many bank loans as we need in Europe."

Judging by the enthusiasm of German and Swiss banks for South African lending, that is probably true. But the rapid repayment of short-term debts is clearly a defensive manoeuvre from a country which will certainly not be helped out by the financial community if it gets any deeper into trouble.

One other point: Dr de Kock said he expected to cut the discount rate 1 per cent in the next few weeks. Imagine our own central bank governor confiding that in public.

Mobile talent

THE City hot shoe shuffle took another couple of turns yesterday with important appointments being made by Morgan Grenfell and Salomon Brothers.

Morgan Grenfell has decided in the phrase of the late Bill Macwhorter Young, the bank's former chairman, to "roll its own" equity team. It already had a

good gilt broker in Pember and Boyle, and a decent jobber in Pinchin Jencks. Now it has picked John Jones, now president of Hoare Govett Inc. in New York, and Geoffrey Collier, president of Viviers de Costa, a Japanese bank. They will be managing director of the equity side, and head of sales and research of Morgan's securities business.

This says two things. The first is that Morgan Grenfell is serious about becoming an integrated securities house, like Mercury or Barclays de Zoer Wedd, even though it will be deploying less capital than either of those operations. The second is that it is serious about being able to be priced out of even top notch operations.

At Salomon the add-on is less crucial, but an interesting pointer, nonetheless. Nicholas Bedford and Christopher Mitchell are joining from W. I. Carr to build up a Japanese equity research and sales business. Salomon has done well in Tokyo itself where it has a full licence, but its strength has been principally on the bond side.

Equity research in Japan is very underdeveloped and in some ways more information is available in London than in Tokyo. Salomon is sensible to recognise that, though the current thrust of Japanese securities has been selling US bonds to Japanese holders, the growth potential in selling Japanese equities to European and US holders is big too.

Prudent move

THE MIGHTY Pru is to go into the estate agency business. For the moment, it is toe-in-the-water stuff with Prudential buying a fairly modest 12 branch firm called Ekins Dilly and Handley with branches in the Huddersfield, Bedford and Cambridge areas. But if, like Lloyd's Bank, the Pru finds that this diversification works, we can expect it adding to the chain to build up a proper national network.

And the further implication must surely be that if a giant clearing bank and a giant composite insurance company are to move into estate agencies, then these financial institutions even more closely associated with housing, the building soci-

eties, cannot be far behind. Meanwhile the Pru will add a new dimension to the estate agency league. After Ray Brooks revolutionised home sales in West London in the 1960s with what one might now call the "Jilly Cooper" style of advert and after Salomon's Hotblack. Desperate to get its name to the top of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, what should we expect of the Pru?

Certainly "the man from the Pru" could take on a quite new meaning.

Gas choice

SO N.M. Rothschild has won the coveted role of handling the privatisation of British Gas. The reason for the choice, apparently, was that out of the 15 merchant banks which made a pre-arranged N.M.R. was the most impressive. The reason was not past performance in the role, it is terribly unkind to remind readers that two of N.M.R.'s previous forays into the field of privatisation were, er, American (a record over-subscription) and, um, British (largely left with the underwriter).

DoT man for Securities and Investment Board

Top Whitehall official to run City watchdog

By Margaret Paganio,
City Correspondent

A senior Whitehall figure will later today be sworn in as the chief executive of the Securities and Investment Board, the City's new self-regulatory watchdog.

He is a top-ranking official in the Department of Trade who has wide experience of City affairs, particularly through his work on several of the Government privatisations, including British Telecom. The appointment is expected to be for an initial three-year period.

The choice of the person to fill the chief executive position is crucial to the success of SIB, since the job will involve setting up the administrative framework and drawing up the rules for the new regulatory structure.

Leading SIB members asked to the City to find a practitioner to run the administration, but it eventually became clear that few people of sufficient calibre could be expected to leave their present

business for several years. The man chosen, with the total agreement between the Bank of England and the DoT, has proven organisational and administrative skills. He has the added advantage of not representing any sectional City interests which could offend.

It is hoped this appointment, to be announced this afternoon, will command the respect of both the City and the wider investing community. Many City observers are openly sceptical, even hostile, to the SIB and its sister organisations, the Market in Financial Instruments Board, the Investment Board, and the self-regulatory body and self-regulation. This choice should draw some of the sting out of the criticism.

The recent appointment of Mr Mark Weinberg, chairman of Hambro Life assurance group, now part of BAT Industries, to head MIB created such deep resentment in the unit trust industry that the authorities determined to keep further appointments as neu-

tral as possible. Mr Weinberg and his MIB members are expected to take the opportunity over coming weeks to stress that the board is definitely not geared solely to the interests of the sharp end of the life assurance industry.

The appointment should also attract quality practitioners on secondment to staff the secretariat. Present plans are for the secretariat to be kept to about six people, including legal and accountancy representatives. The next few months will involve mainly drawing up the rules for future conduct and disclosure in City practice, and working out a levy funding system. Eventually, once legislation is passed next year, the secretariat's staff could grow to about 40.

The SIB is keen to keep down running costs. Several group members are expected to be appointed shortly to the part-time SIB board, to represent areas such as foreign trading and the futures and commodity markets.

Abbey sale to raise £243m

By Mary Brasier
THE SALE of Abbey Life is set to raise £243 million for its US parent ITT when shares in the unit-linked life group are offered to the public tomorrow.

ITT is parting with 45 per cent of Abbey in the largest private offer for sale the Stock Exchange has ever seen. Under terms of the flotation announced yesterday, bankers Warburg are offering 135 million Abbey shares at a fixed price of 180p, giving the group a market value of £243 million before dealings start on June 15.

Abbey will be the only unit-linked life company with a public listing and — since the takeover of Hambro Life — the first to come to market for nine years. Its direc-

Pound tumbles on Saudi threats

By John Hooper
and Peter Rodgers

The fall in the pound accelerated yesterday on the news that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has threatened to force down the price of oil by flooding the market unless his Opec partners stick to their undertakings on pricing and production.

Sterling dropped 1.5 cents in London. It also fell against the German mark. The result was a hardening of money market interest rates in London which will push base rate cuts even further into the future.

The Saudis threatened move could inflict serious damage on the British Government's plans to slash the value of the North Sea oil revenues which it is counting on to finance tax cuts. Because of the fall in oil prices, the Government's take is already well below the level expected by the Treasury.

Yesterday, BNOC reacted to the downward drift in prices by cutting the price it pays for oil. Saudi oil prices are traded by the Government.

This month's price for Brent, the key British blend, will be \$26.65 a barrel — \$1.25 less than the price in May.

King Fahd's threat was contained in a message to Opec ministers gathered in the Saudi town of Taif for a meeting of the cartel's most influential sub-committee. One delegate said yesterday that the monarch had said that if some Opec states continued to do as they pleased — then others will be free to do as they please.

As the Nigerian oil minister, Professor Tam David-West, pointed out in an interview with the English language Saudi Gazette published yesterday, Saudi Arabia is capable of producing as much as 10 million barrels a day — almost a quarter of the non-Communist world's present demand.

Unlike some other producers, the Saudis' production costs are so low that they could continue to pump oil at a profit, even if the price fell sharply.

But the Nigerian minister went on to imply that the Saudi threat was in fact to produce its full quota of 4.35 million barrels a day. Even this, however, would add more than 1.5 million barrels to world supplies.

Sheikh Yamani made a similar threat to Britain and Norway earlier this year, but it was never carried through — partly because of Opec's initial success in bolstering the market by strict adherence to output quotas.

In recent months, however, the cartel has only succeeded in staying within its self-imposed 16 million barrel a day ceiling because of savage cutbacks by Saudi Arabia, which has new businesses to fund.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the Taif meeting also passed a resolution to impose sanctions on member states who exceed quotas or discount prices.

Meanwhile the pound is down nearly 4 cents from its 5 month peak on Monday, closing yesterday at \$1.2612, but it was trading at \$1.2670 by early afternoon in New York. As the pound fell, it was back against Continental currencies.

such as the German mark, which fell 0.9 to 78.5 on the 1975 value on the Bank of England index.

This is still a long way from the levels earlier this year, but the resurgence of the oil factor and the push it has given to the pound over the last two days is bound to make the Government even more cautious about reducing interest rates. Any cut now would add to the downward movement in sterling. Money market interest rates rose in the City, and pressure for an early base rate cut has now disappeared.

The Government maintains that oil prices have only a limited effect on the British economy but remains nervous that the markets may ignore this view and start a run on sterling.

In the US the influential bond market pundit Henry Kaufman said that weak retail sales and employment figures could encourage the US Federal Reserve to cut its discount rate again. He forecast a prime lending rate of US banks.

CBI attack on liability directive

By our Industrial Staff

A Common Market proposal to make manufacturers liable for defective products — even when the injured party is unable to prove negligence — was attacked by the CBI yesterday as an "unsatisfactory, damaging and shoddy compromise".

The employers' organisation said that a directive on the subject, which is likely to be approved with British support after this month, would increase industry's costs and could put some small firms out of business.

Under the terms of the draft directive, manufacturers would be strictly liable for damage to personal property as well as for death and injury. But they would have a defence if the defect could not be detected by methods available at the time the product was first marketed.

Individual member states would be free to limit total liabilities to between 50 and 70 million ECUs.

Apart from increasing costs, thereby reducing competitiveness and jeopardising jobs, the directive would inhibit innovation and cause certain products to be withdrawn, the CBI claimed. It was equivalent to "introducing a social compensation system said for by industry."

Lucas Girling axe falls on more jobs in Wales

Up to 800 jobs are to be cut at the Lucas Girling car component factories at Cwmbran and onypool, in Gwent, and 2,000 workers at Pilkington's glass works in St Helens, Merseyside, will be made redundant over the next two years, it was confirmed yesterday.

The Lucas decision brings to almost 1,000 the number of job losses announced in Gwent this week. It will be implemented over five years with no compulsory redundancies. But with unemployment in the county now running at 20 per cent the news was greeted with dismay by the Labour-controlled county council leader, Councillor Lloyd Turnbull, who called last night on the Government

to give Gwent special development area status.

"Unless urgent action is taken to stem unemployment here will become the order of the day," Mr Turnbull said. Earlier this week the government announced the closure of Gwent's only Skillcentre.

The Pilkington redundancies will also be voluntary, a company spokesman said yesterday. A total of £31 million would be spent on redundancy payments. The jobs due to go have already been identified within the St Helens plant, and are mainly in the flat and safety glass and fibreglass production areas, where the decision was announced some time ago.

Views differ on research

By David Simpson

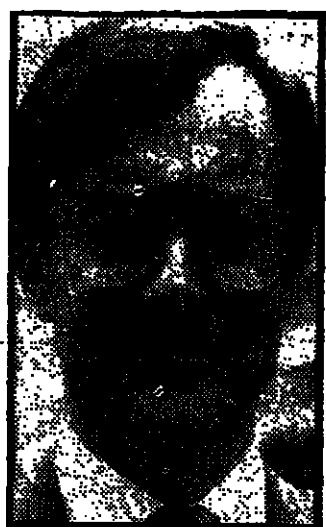
The government, the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC found themselves in unaccustomed harmony yesterday on the importance of a high level of research and development to industry, but inevitably found themselves completely at odds on the present condition of the UK's innovation performance.

At the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the government labelled Britain's R&D performance as "fair,"

while the CBI claimed it was beset by serious problems.

The TUC was a step further, arguing that Britain's R&D performance had recently deepened into a crisis "with severe implications for the economy as a whole."

The reasons for this, it claimed, in a document presented to the NEDC meeting, were "increasingly inadequate levels of public support for civil R&D, and the continuing absence of any co-ordinated national strategy for innovation."



Michael Hephner — scope

tors admitted yesterday that they had timed the debut of the company's shares in the City to coincide with the announcement on Monday to privatise earnings related pensions will provide a further boost to Abbey's earnings by the end of the decade.

New premiums have risen from £158.7 million to £223.9 million in the last two years. The Government's proposals for the abolition of life assurance premium relief and taxes that pensions might be taxed.

The environment around us is becoming very favourable," said the Chairman, Mr Michael Hephner, yesterday. "There is enormous scope for growth of this business given that over half the working population has no provision beyond the state scheme for retirement."

In the past four years initial commissions have trebled with 60 per cent of the group's business in the life market and 40 per cent in pensions.

Premium income was £276.1 million last year and Abbey is forecasting a surplus this year of £33 million compared with £30.7 million in 1984. Four years ago the surplus was £10 million.

Shareholders are promised a 6.6p dividend so that the shares will yield 5.24p at the 180p offer price.

Ten per cent of the stock on offer is being set aside for Abbey's 4,500 employees, although a plan to widen preferential applications to turned down by the Stock Exchange.

Common Brothers suspends shares as price slips to 35p

By Andrew Cornelius

Common Brothers, the Newcastle-based shipping group, is the latest shipping company to fall foul of the recession which has devastated the industry in the past five years.

The Common Brothers board yesterday requested that dealing in the company's shares be suspended until details of a refinancing package had been agreed with banks.

Mr Kristian Siem, chief executive, said that he was optimistic that agreement would be reached with the banks within a couple of weeks. The decision to suspend the shares at 35p was taken when the price began to drop on fears that

the group was running into trouble.

This latest bad news from the shipping sector comes a few days after the collapse of the Cardiff-based Reardon Smith Line. Shares of many other companies in the shipping industry, including Ocean Transport and Trading, Lyle Shipping and London & Overseas Freighters, were marked down on the stock market as fears grew that another collapse might be possible.

Common Brothers would not give exact details of its refinancing package. But Mr Siem said that it would involve the rearrangement of certain loan facilities, assets disposals and

the conversion of a significant portion of the group's loan and charter obligations into share capital.

The group made pretax losses of £20 million in the year to June 30, 1984. The biggest problems have been caused by the failure to charter the Irig, a \$70 million drilling ship, which has been laid up since a lucrative charter with Phillips Petroleum ended 18 months ago.

Two bulk carriers owned by the group have also been chartered at rates which barely cover their costs, although two cruise liners and four liquid gas vessels have continued to operate profitably.

No early fall seen in building society rates

By Margaret Dibbon

Building society interest rates will stay high throughout the summer, the chairman of the Building Societies Association, Mr Herbert Walden, said yesterday he was "less optimistic" about the prospects for an early fall than he was a month or two ago.

The success of the banks' high interest rate accounts has hit building society inflow and the societies are being forced to match this competition. Mr Walden said it was no longer enough simply to watch bank base rates to decide about the mortgage rates level.

Moreover, bank competition would be a more permanent feature of the savings market. "Their competition will be of more concern to us than it was in the past," said Mr Walden.

The banks were better placed to weather high rates because of their spread of business. The new accounts could be seen as loss leaders. "There is no doubt that the rates being offered by banks are forcing our rates up, and unless they reduce their rates, the prospect of an early reduction in building society rates."

Building society inflow during May was between £550 million and £600 million, and societies must wait until income reaches £800 million a month before they can consider a reduction in June and July, traditionally thin months.

Building societies fight back

Building societies fight back

By our Financial Staff

Building societies are fighting back on the question of conventional mortgages. They have been exchanging letters between the Building Societies Association and Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, and the association has been invited to talks with him.

Lord Hailsham also wrote to Mr Arthur Mitchell 10 days ago setting out the government's current thinking on allowing new organisations to compete with solicitors on conventional mortgages.

The letter follows his earlier statement that the government was concerned about possible conflicts of interest if building societies were allowed to offer conventional mortgages.

He makes it clear that if any corporate bodies are given the new freedom he will have complete discretionary power to authorise each institution. Lord Hailsham throws it open to building societies, banks, and estate agents to suggest ways in which they can satisfy him that there is no possible conflict of interest.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sales drive by Britain

BRITAIN yesterday stepped up its battle to sell the \$4-billion Panavia battlefield communications system to the American Defence Department. The British system built by a consortium including Plessey, Rockwell and ITT is in competition against a French system known as Rita being built by Thomson CSF of France and including the US company GTE.

As part of its effort to sell the Americans the UK system a joint British and American parliamentary team yesterday visited an exhibition in Washington where the Panavia communications package is on display. The British parliamentary team was headed by Mr Eric Deakin, including several prominent Labour and Tory members including Labour front bench spokesman Mr John Smith.

AIRSHIP Industries has clinched a £3.5 million deal with Resorts International which operates casinos and hotels who plan to use the Silver 3000 for advertising. Resorts will contribute to development costs for the 200-seater airship and has an option to buy it. It is the second major contract Airship Industries has won recently. Last month it agreed a \$4 million deal with Canadian Engineering Surveys.

PEUGEOT, France's leading car manufacturer, has been granted a subsidised loan of two billion francs to develop a new car for its Citroen subsidiary. The company will use the funds to modernise its plant at Aubany near Paris to produce a new compact Citroen. The new model, which is expected to be introduced next year, will be the smallest in the Citroen line.

UKO INTERNATIONAL PLC

INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND

Results for year ended 29th March 1985

- * Profit advances 31% to £3.6m.
- * Total dividend up from 3p to 5p.
- * Result achieved on turnover 9% higher at £63,779,000.
- * Earnings per share up 27% from 16.4p to 20.8p.

"The improved Group results were due to increased turnover and better operating efficiency. Sales in both divisions attained record levels."

Sir Ian Morrow — Chairman

UKO International PLC, Bittacy Hill, Mill Hill, London NW7 1EN.

Potential investors get Wellcome report

By James Ertchmann
Chemicals Correspondent

The Wellcome drugs group embarks on a new era of discovery yesterday. It decided to unlock the secret of how life, as presently understood, sheds its charitable status and becomes a public company next year.

Previously, Wellcome only summoned the press when it felt the need to discuss new drugs and saving lives. But yesterday the chairman, Mr Alfred Sheppard, invited journalists and stockbrokers to talk

about money, and Wellcome's potential for profit growth.

The word needed to be spread that new investors will be in safe hands with Wellcome shares. Previous profits for the half year to March leapt 65 per cent to £70.5 million on sales up £129 million to £207 million. Without making forecasts it would be very disappointing if our profits did not go over £100 million for the full year," Mr Sheppard said.

Already the chairman, who is new to handling the stock market, has learned the careful art of making a

non-forecast that they would all go away and remember.

It will not be easy for the City to assess Wellcome's financial strength before next January when the Wellcome Trust, which has always owned 100 per cent of the company, decides to float 20 per cent of its holdings.

Most of Wellcome's profit growth came from better sales of its drugs in the United States where it makes 70 per cent of its money. Mr Sheppard declined to say how much profit his company makes from the National Health Service in Britain — a

subject few drug companies like to talk about.

Although Wellcome has garnered publicity for its herpes treatment, Zovirax, the drug does not currently rank among the group's top three money spinners, which are older discoveries.

Wellcome's future worth will be determined by the success of several radically new products which are just emerging from the laboratory, like its own unique blend of interferon. "Our drug portfolio will be very different in eight years' time," said the chairman. This prospect obviously

pleased him but it may give the analysts sleepless nights.

Wellcome has become a leader in some of the most esoteric fields of genetic engineering and immunology. As science will pay huge dividends, but the entry for losers will be equally costly. Suggestions were made yesterday that Wellcome might be the first to get an AIDS vaccine on the market within five years. But the company, soberly reflecting on its new market status, subsequently made every effort to play down such speculation.

GM wins \$5bn battle for Hughes Aircraft

From Alex Brummer in Washington

General Motors yesterday emerged victorious from the bruising auction for control of Hughes Aircraft, the satellite-to-helicopters combine created by the late Howard Hughes.

The success of its \$5 billion plus offer was particularly sweet for General Motors in that it was won in fierce competition with its arch rival, Ford, and restores GM to what it regards as its rightful place as the largest corporation in the world. The bid is the largest outside the oil industry, just topping the weekend consumer merger between tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds and Nabisco.

The emergence of GM as victor in the battle fought Wall Street by surprise. Ford shares have been climbing in recent days on the expectation that Ford would win control. Ford in the aerospace business. However, General Motors with its huge cash reserves of \$9 billion was always considered to have the financial edge.

In fact, General Motors only have to fork out some \$2.7 billion in cash with the rest of the purchase price being satisfied with the issue of some 50 million of new class "H" General Motors shares. The final decision on the bid was taken by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the effective controllers of Hughes Aircraft, which had the right to unload the aircraft firm for tax reasons. The other unsuccessful bidder was Boeing.

As a result of its purchase GM will now control the United States' largest defence electronics firm. It clearly hopes that its belated entry into hi-tech will both insulate it from the severe cyclical swings of the American car industry as well as provide it with a technological edge in the battle with competitors in the US and Japanese car industries.

While General Motors is already in the defence business, defence has only represented 2 per cent of its massive annual sales of \$86 billion. One problem it will inherit is the current investigation into Hughes' alleged inflating of defence contracts for the Pentagon.

Japan plans R & D in UK

From Michael Smith in Osaka

JAPAN'S biggest electronics firm, Matsushita, is planning to open a new research and development laboratory in Britain in the near future. Officials from Matsushita's UK subsidiary, Panasonic, are currently searching for a top-level British scientist to lead the operation, which will be the first major Japanese R&D facility in the UK.

Matsushita has selected Britain in preference to Germany as the site of only its third R&D facility outside Japan. But until Panasonic officials in Britain recruit the right person to lead the venture, the Japanese are not prepared to move forward on the laboratory which will open or how much of the group's huge \$800 million a year R&D budget it will command.

The decision represents a modest step by Japanese industry to answer criticisms from the West about the past reluctance of high technology firms to transfer R&D overseas. It is a step likely to be welcomed in Britain at a time of growing friction over the trade imbalances between the two countries.

Dr Shigeru Hayakawa, head of Matsushita's research and development operations, said yesterday that it would be meaningless if the new British laboratory were led and staffed by Japanese.

Matsushita currently spends close on \$800 million a year on R&D, with increasing sums being diverted towards developments in microchips. Dr Hayakawa, an internationally renowned expert, forecast a huge expansion of microchip capability in the next few years.

Japanese electronics firms are likely to unveil a one million-bit chip by the end of this year, which will have four times the power of any currently available. But Dr Hayakawa predicted that within five years, the industry would produce an even more powerful four million-bit chip, simultaneously developing new techniques to make "layered" chips carrying a 20 million-bit capacity—80 times more powerful than anything now available on the market.

De Lorean shockwave hits accountants

Mary Brasier and Andrew Cornelius on high risk problems



THE SENIOR partner of one of the UK's top accountancy firms confessed this week that he could not find enough insurance cover to handle the risks the firm faced.

Top accountants are in the same boat as insurance brokers, solicitors and other professional advisers. They cannot find enough insurance cover because they have become high risk categories. The £350 million damages claims levelled against Arthur Andersen over its auditing of the accounts of the De Lorean sports car business have sent shockwaves through the professions.

If the cases against Arthur Andersen are proved, the partners are likely to be adequately protected by hefty professional indemnity cover they took out when rates were substantially cheaper than they are now. Also protected are the partners of Ernst & Whinney facing a huge claim in the Irish courts and Arthur Young Mclelland Moores who may find themselves on the wrong end of an action following the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

But accountants, architects, lawyers, brokers and other professionals organised on a partnership basis where their liability to losses is unlimited wonder whether they would face personal bankruptcy if a De Lorean size action was to hit them now.

According to one firm's senior partner: "Two years ago I would have said it was virtually impossible for the partner of a firm like ours to be made personally bankrupt by a negligence claim. Now it is a distinct possibility."

Firms organised as partnerships are finding it difficult to place professional indemnity insurance and where such insurance is on offer the premiums are sky high.

Premiums for indemnity insurance have rocketed in the last year, particularly for accountants who are now paying two or three times more for cover than they were 12 months ago. Their total bill for insurance is now around £200 million. There is a certain amount of catching up involved as premiums had been driven down by competition among insurers before spectacular claims such as De Lorean came along.

The huge numbers involved in paying claims like De Lorean make major indemnity insurers think again. Guardian Royal Exchange, which held 8 per cent of the market, pulled out last November after setting aside \$8 million from profits to meet its share of professional negligence claims. Others have also withdrawn from the market, deterred by unprecedented loss ratios on accountancy risks of 300 per cent.

In the Lloyd's market the same pattern has emerged with underwriters reducing the amount of indemnity business they are prepared to write. Partly they feel vulnerable because it is much more difficult to lay off the risk through reinsurance as reinsurers have seen the huge claims appearing in the US.

But also as premiums for professional insurance have risen so fast, many Lloyd's underwriters risk breaching the premium income limit set for them by the Lloyd's market if they renew indemnity cover.

The result is that major professional firms simply cannot protect themselves against the risk of a multi-million dollar lawsuit because they cannot get cover beyond about £70 or £80 million. Finding cover even below that level means trawling around the London market and the US. Smaller firms with an unblemished record are in a better position particularly as there are alternatives such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants own scheme and Sun Alliance write policies for smaller firms.

The threat posed by huge court claims and the inadequacy of insurance arrangements as prompted calls for a widespread shake-up of the way in which the accountancy profession is structured. Leading firms now argue that the partnership structure is out of touch with present day demands, and that partners face risks which are out of step with the rewards which are on offer in the profession.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has established a working party which is examining the future structure of firms. But the pressure for change is likely to come from the top eight firms in the UK, which are increasingly out of step with the rest of the profession on major issues.

Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, one of the leading UK firms, is already quietly moving towards the limited liability structure of a public listed company. Partners of the firm will appoint a board of directors, and publish an annual report. Mr John Bullock, newly elected as senior partner, believes that it is only a matter of time before the partnership structure is abandoned.

"In theory I could do this job for seven years and then be wiped out by the claim like this," Mr Bullock says.

The Government is aware of the problem facing the accountancy firms, but is waiting for the profession to take a lead before making the changes to company law necessary if the traditional partnership structure is to be abolished. In the meantime accountancy firms are desperately looking for ways to top up their existing indemnity cover.

If the insurance industry refuses to take the risks then firms will have to look much more closely at the risks involved in auditing and may turn down risky projects like De Lorean.

It is not just accountants who have suddenly felt the chill of being exposed to expensive litigation. Lloyd's brokers themselves are vulnerable and the large groups are encountering the same difficulties as accountants in obtaining adequate cover for major risks. Premiums have doubled in most cases so that a medium sized broker wanting at least £20 million cover will have to pay as much as £400,000 a year in premiums.

Major firms are wanting the same kind of cover as the top 10 accounting firms, and the old maximum of £20 million is being extensively topped up. Many go to the US for the so-called "top layer" of insurance to cover them for amounts of over £40 million.

One major foreign reinsurer is actively excluding indemnity — "errors and omissions" lines for Lloyd's brokers in the wake of a case involving Sedgwick Group and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in Australia.

Sedgwick paid \$21.2 million in an out of court settlement last year after the commission, which faced huge claims for bush fire damage, had been told its insurance policies were void.

It blamed Sedgwick which had placed the business, saying that if insurers refused to pay because they felt they had been misled about the nature of the risk it was Sedgwick's fault.

Sedgwick covered all but \$25,000 of the \$21.2 million bill for damages from claiming on its indemnity insurance. (Ironically the same insurers who refused to pay out on the bush fires subsequently paid out for Sedgwick's damages).

Solicitors, engineers, surveyors and architects have all started to look more closely at their insurance cover either because they do business in the US or because they sense the American enthusiasm for litigation is spreading in the UK.

Rates for solicitors are expected to be revised sharply when their professional scheme comes up for renewal later this summer. Firms like solicitors are often reluctant (or are not allowed) to reveal whether they have cover in case they encourage litigation.

Architects have responded to the problem of finding adequate cover at "reasonable cost" by establishing a joint company with Lloyd's brokers Bowring. The main company providing indemnity for architects pulled out of the market in 1983 and architects cite examples of reduced cover, more conditions attached to the policy and more instances of repudiation and avoidance when it comes to claiming.

One medium sized practice told the professional journal that his premium had leaped from £3,500 to £22,000.

Institute schemes whether for architects, accountants or any other profession are seen as the only way of securing an underwrite source which will not walk away from business when margins are squeezed. Unfortunately though the existence of professional schemes contributed to the intense competition for indemnity insurance so recently.

The retreat from that state of affairs which produced cheap insurance with choice for the assured has been a particularly painful one for most partnerships which face both the need for higher cover and the necessity of higher costs at the same time.

Debenhams' ability attacked by Burton

By Margaret Pagnano City Correspondent

Burton launched a stinging attack on Debenhams' ability as retailers in its formal offer document yesterday.

Saving financial ammunition until the next round in this \$475 million takeover bid, Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chief, concentrated fire power on how Debenhams could flower from his dose of retailing flair.

"Debenhams' management have progressively abdicated their role as retailers, becoming instead landlords and credit card operators dependent on the retailing skills of others," he added. Debenhams have not developed authoritative, recognised and successful high street names and brands.

Mr Halpern, in tandem with Sir Terence Conran of Habitat 67, Mothercare, added they have the skill and experience to bring about change. Burton can bring a more exciting and profitable retailing style to Debenhams serving its 30 year plus market of customers, he said.

"We believe that Debenhams' profits from retailing in its own stores are next to nothing."

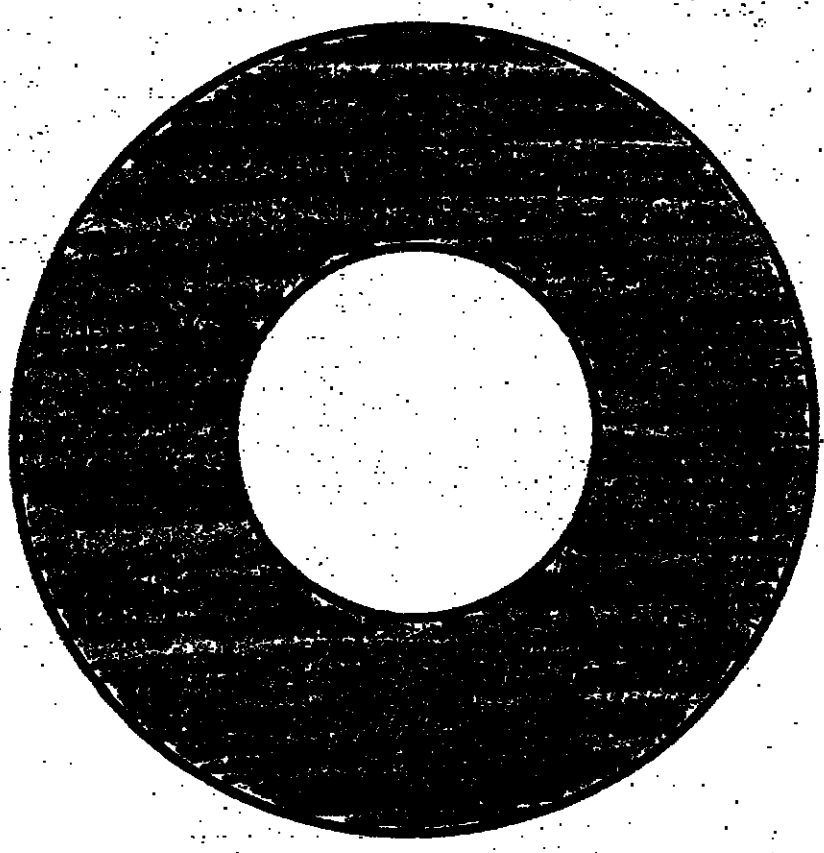
Burton hopes to talk to House of Fraser, which now holds a 5 per cent stake in Debenhams, next week over possible agreements if the bid succeeds.

Shares in Debenhams hardened another 5p to 404p as Mr Bob Thornton, the chairman, brushed off Burton's attack. The shares are still well ahead of Burton's offer terms which value them at about 368p. Burton's shares firmed up to 384p.

A full year profit forecast from Burton is being kept well tucked away but the group is set to make some £74 million after the 33 per cent rise to £34 million at the half-year.

Burton is forecasting a final dividend of 5p a net which makes a total dividend of 8.5 per cent.

Mr Thornton said Burton's offer is still some \$90 million out of touch. But if shareholders want to be done out of income and capital then it is a great little offer.



A report on a well rounded year.

During the past year, we have made some very important changes in the Group and I believe we are now on the threshold of gaining significant benefits.

Since I reported at this time last year there is a greater degree of optimism, despite the fact that many of the problems of previous years have not yet been resolved.

There have been much improved performances from many of our companies around the world.

At home, demand for cement remained virtually static, while the miners' strike added some £6 million to our operating costs. Hardly surprisingly our UK cement profits did not match those of the previous year.

But, turning to 1985, I am pleased to say that in spite of the extremely bad weather in January and February which left us 20% behind last year's figures, deliveries have picked up and now we are only marginally behind the previous year's level.

Points from the address by the Chairman Mr J.D. Milne to the Annual General Meeting on 4th June.

In addition, we should gain a benefit from the new Caudon and Dunbar works, due to come into production in the next few months, as well as from the 4.5% increase in cement prices from 1st June.

Abroad, our companies overseas have made an encouraging start, particularly in Australia, New Zealand and Mexico - while our established cement business in the US continues to do very well, as markets benefit from business expansion and population growth.

Referring to the US, we have just completed the acquisition of Atlantic Cement Inc. at a cost of \$145 million which will complement our existing

operations and greatly strengthen our presence in the United States. I am confident we will achieve a level of earnings which will fully justify this acquisition.

Meanwhile, our Armitage Shanks Kilgore sanitary ware business in Texas is doing well and the new plant, now being constructed in North Carolina, is on schedule to begin production in three months time.

Much of the success that we have achieved is due to the people who work for us. It is people who make a company and Blue Circle is fortunate in having a good team.

I believe we are in good shape, and I hope that you are encouraged by the progress we have made - and will continue making.

Blue Circle
Blue Circle Industries PLC
For copies of the full text of the Chairman's Statement and the Company's Report and Accounts, please write to Group Public Affairs, Blue Circle Industries PLC, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5NP.

The Wellcome Foundation Limited Interim Results - 1985



Review by the Chairman, Mr A. J. Shepperd

Wholly-owned by The Wellcome Trust, The Wellcome Foundation Limited is an international group of pharmaceutical and chemical companies with its headquarters in the UK.

The Wellcome Trust intends to offer 20% of its shareholding for public sale in early 1986, while retaining a strong controlling interest in the company. The arrangement is subject to the

The profit increase is primarily due to improved trading in the USA and also in the UK together with favourable exchange movements during the half year. In the USA sales have been buoyant resulting in improved profitability. Results in the UK reflect the full benefits of rationalisation measures made in earlier years.

	1st half 1985 £m Unaudited	1st half 1984 £m Unaudited	Full year 1984 £m
Turnover	507.3	378.3	806.4
R and D expenditure	59.0	44.8	96.6
Profit before taxation	70.5	42.7	89.5
Taxation	32.2	19.5	40.9
Profit after taxation	38.3	23.2	48.6
Capital expenditure	26.5	27.0	57.7
Shareholders' funds	489.5	386.6	420.0

approval of the Charity Commissioners.

In the six months ended 23 February 1985, group turnover amounted to £507.3m. This is £129.0m greater than the corresponding period last year and is an increase of 34% of which 20% is due to trading and 14% to currency movements.

Profit before tax amounted to £70.5m, an increase of £27.8m representing 65%.

The launch of acyclovir, a major breakthrough in antiviral therapy, continues. A significant step was the launch in the USA market in February of the capsule formulation of this product.

Capital expenditure for the half year amounted to £26.5m.

The Wellcome Building,
183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.
Tel: 01-387 4477.

Dollar loses interest in market haggling



INVESTMENT
Robin Stoddart

INTEREST rates are set by the availability of cash and credit. Just as oil prices are fixed by suppliers in the face of buyers' demand, and the local fruit and vegetable market responds to glut and shortage. The only difference is that while money is the easiest of all things to make, those that monopolise the right to do so have very little idea about the consequences.

Financial markets have been dominated recently by the recognition that for the time being dollar interest rates were going to be im-

pelled lower by the need for a stimulus to the United States economy. A desirable byproduct in view of the soaring trade gap is a lowering of the dollar itself. The cut in key dollar rates to the lowest level for almost five years was enthusiastically welcomed and aroused hopes of similar moves elsewhere.

Led by fixed interest stocks, most share markets moved gently ahead. They were warmed by seasonal factors, notably the decline in oil prices. However, the realisation that this would hit Britain's national income and add to the Treasury's funding requirements soon cut the sterling exchange rate back from the highest level for a year which it briefly reached on the attraction of the highest interest rates offered by any important currency.

Further consideration of relative inflation and the adverse recent trend in Britain deterred switching from dollars into sterling. It brought a little more support, however, for the shortest-dated index-linked gilts issues which are almost unique in guaranteeing real purchasing power and both gains and a modest income for savers over the next few years. Naturally, when prices on the

high streets are rising fast, led by the values placed on the retailers themselves in stock market bids and deals, such solid gilt investments appear rather pedestrian.

Always ready to seize an opportunity for raising a cheap loan, the Treasury and Bank of England batched £800 million of 10 per cent stock dated 2004 which they will hope to sell gradually on the market at not much below par. There is no public subscription offer, which not only saves on advertising but will avoid upsetting the unusually stable gilt market or money market conditions generally ahead of the £1.2 billion cash call by British Telecom later this month.

Although the link between excess money supply and inflation might have been expected to be the subject of a new flush of analytical works after the latest surge in bank lending and the Chancellor's attempts to play down the missed targets, there has been no attempt to rock the boat. Discretion is obviously the better part when a fairly general recovery in the economy, if not employment prospects, has at last occurred.

The convergence of longer-term interest rates that has now occurred on either side of the Atlantic with the leap

in US treasury bond prices bringing yields down to a shade below 10 per cent this week is a stroke of luck for the Chancellor after so many setbacks previously. But for the hour of weakness in the dollar, which benefited the pound, the high level of short-term interest rates and spate of offers of near-record returns on building society deposits would probably have eroded the prices of longer-dated gilts. Holders can hardly be expected to forgo market rates nearly 50 per cent better for very long.

Foreign demand for gilts has, however, been fairly strong, based on currency preferences. Japanese banks have become enthusiastic buyers of the highest grade of foreign investments. They have taken up large amounts of US treasury bills, foreseeing that the dollar would not slide continuously when oil prices were falling. For longer term holdings they have invested in both sterling gilts and the British banks' new issues of perpetual floating rate notes at a good fraction above high market interest rates.

To what extent the failure of the yen to move up against other currencies as it clearly should in the glare of the huge Japanese trade surplus can be blamed on this

kind of activity is hard to gauge. What is likely is that after these forays the big institutions will turn their attention back to their own market, which even though close to its peak as represented by some share indices is well short of it when due weighting is given to the depressed electronic sector and other international giants.

Nevertheless, it is getting on for two years since British investment trust managers, among others, took the view that the dollar must fall and that the yen would then be the strongest currency and several have paid quite dearly for hedging dollar holdings into the Japanese currency. The rising threat of protectionism has still made little difference to ingrained Japanese business and consumer attitudes. Apart from the international debt problem, this is one of the greatest threats to sustained economic recovery by the countries most dependent on trade.

At present, there are few worries that the US will come to such a shuddering halt that its suppliers will crash back into recession next winter. Wall Street is celebrating the reduction in interest rates and looking for a gradual revival in profit-

Secret company comes into the open with business guide

THE PRESS launch of a new series of business handbooks due to be held at a Pall Mall club tomorrow will bring to light a British company whose existence has until now remained a well kept secret, as its executives coyly put it.

Intermatrix was founded 12 years ago by two former IBM executives, Mr. Jan Dauman and Mr. Geoffrey Morris who felt that there was money to be made out of doing for other companies what they had done for IBM UK. This was to assess the sort of political, economic and social changes that might have an impact on the company and suggest ways in which IBM could shape its plans accordingly.

A mite too fancifully perhaps for British ears, Intermatrix executives describe themselves as "professionals in helping companies anticipate change." It comes as no surprise to find that the majority of their clients are American.

A number of big British firms, including ICI, Nat West and Guardian Royal Exchange, use Intermatrix, but by and large companies on this side of the Atlantic take a lot of convincing

And those who are convinced sometimes ignore its advice. Intermatrix executives cite with glee the story of a big chemicals outfit which they advised against following a particular course of action. To back up their argument, they wrote the story which, they predicted, would appear in the Guardian if the firm pressed ahead with its plans.

The company was under-terred. Not only, say Intermatrix, did the Guardian publish an article along much those lines, but there were questions in the House and a brouhaha from which the company has never really recovered.

Intermatrix has a staff of 25, but they also employ on a freelance basis a worldwide array of some 60 experts, who are all specialists in a particular country or industry. They include academics, officials, politicians, journalists, financiers and businessmen. Generically these illustrious moonlighters are known as The Network.

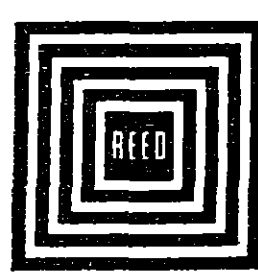
Among the most recent recruits to The Network is Rear Admiral John Robertson, a former director of Naval Intelligence, whose understanding of the South-

ern Cone of South America has apparently come in particularly useful. He will be present at Friday's launch.

Over the years, the company has built up an immense stock of knowledge about doing business in various parts of the world. Not surprisingly, it is rather expensive to maintain and as a way of defraying the cost, they are parcelling some of the facts up into 100-page booklets, each on a different country which are to be updated at quarterly intervals. An initial report and a year's updates will set you back £180.

Not surprisingly, Intermatrix is itself a model of responsiveness to the social climate. It will not work for South African clients and refuses to touch defence-related contracts. But one cannot help feeling that if Intermatrix had been given the task of advising a business intelligence service on how best to present itself to the outside world, it would not have advised it to choose a retired admiral as its front man, and not give its information-gatherers a title which is redolent of a Boy's Own adventure.

John Hooper



Reed International PLC.

Preliminary Results for
Year Ended 31 March 1985

Trading Results

Turnover increased by 4% to £2115m (1984: £2043m). Excluding major divestments, the increase for continuing businesses was 17%.

Pre-tax profit increased by 12% to £107.5m (1984: £96.4m).

Historical trading profit increased by 13% to £127.1m (1984: £112.7m). Current cost trading profit increased by 3% to £68.8m (1984: £66.6m).

The dividend for the year is to be increased by 12% from 16.5p to 18.5p.

	1985		1984	
£ million	Sales	Profit	Sales	Profit
Reed Publishing	523	57.2	423	40.3
Consumer Publishing	207	11.4	223	16.0
Reed Building Products	194	8.9	182	13.0
Paint and DIY	247	17.4	183	11.8
Packaging	334	18.4	302	15.0
Reed Trading	210	9.6	171	5.6
European Paper	196	2.3	174	3.0
North American Paper	191	5.2	176	6.3
Decorative Products	113	3.4	105	3.0
Mirror Group Newspapers	75	1.2	277	5.7
Central Costs		(7.9)		(7.0)
Inter-Company Sales	(175)	(173)		
	2,115	127.1	2,043	112.7

Turnover and trading profits achieved record levels. With generally highly competitive markets, UK profits declined but the fall was more than offset by improved results overseas, notably in publishing in the USA. The weakness of sterling contributed £7m to an £18m improvement in overseas profit. Exceptional costs for rationalisation charged against trading profit were £5m (1984: £10m).

Review of Operating Groups

Reed Publishing. The largest British owned publishing and exhibitions group continued to make vigorous progress and increased trading profit by 42% to £57m. The group generated 45% of Reed International's trading profit from 21% of balance sheet capital employed. With significant new investment, the rapidly expanding Cahners business in the USA has been particularly successful. UK regional newspapers continued to develop and substantial investment was made in electronic data based publishing.

Consumer Publishing. The fall in profit this year was largely attributable to lost issues as a result of a journalists' strike and sharply increased paper costs. The European Courtesy Magazines Group was acquired.

Reed Building Products. The imposition of VAT on home improvements seriously impaired the already depressed UK market for building materials. Turnover was maintained but at much reduced margins. Key Terrain suffered particularly from severe price cutting by competitors. Profits from the UK businesses in the second half of the year were significantly reduced. In Holland, Sphinx benefited from previous investment and rationalisation and produced much improved results.

On 30 May 1985, the Company announced that it is seeking purchasers for the companies within the Building Products Group.

Paint and DIY. Profits were higher in all

PRELIMINARY CONSOLIDATED PROFIT STATEMENT for the year to 31 March 1985

	Year	
Historical Cost	1985	1984
£ million		
Turnover		
United Kingdom and Exports	1367.1	1474.0
Overseas	748.1	569.0
	2115.2	2043.0
Trading Profit before Exceptional Items	132.2	122.7
Exceptional Items	(5.1)	(10.0)
Share of Profits of Related Companies	1.4	2.7
Operating Profit		
United Kingdom	68.2	73.3
Overseas	60.3	42.1
	128.5	115.4
Interest	(21.0)	(19.0)
Profit before Taxation	107.5	96.4
Taxation		
United Kingdom	(21.8)	(18.3)
Overseas	(21.5)	(9.4)
	(43.3)	(27.7)
Profit after Taxation	64.2	68.7
Outside Shareholders' Interests	(0.3)	(0.3)
Preference Dividends	(0.2)	(0.2)
Profit before Extraordinary Item	63.7	68.2
Extraordinary Item	15.0	—
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	78.7	68.2
Ordinary Dividends paid and proposed 1985: 18.5p per share (1984: 16.5p per share)	(22.0)	(19.5)
Retained Profit	56.7	48.7
Earnings per Ordinary Share	53.6p	57.7p

The figures for the year are abridged from the Group's full accounts for that period, which have received an unqualified auditors' report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

main areas both in the UK and overseas. Frazee Industries (paints) and W F Taylor (adhesives) were acquired in the USA for £24m and contributed £3m to trading profit.

Packaging. UK demand was generally static and Medway Sacks, a major supplier to the coal industry was badly hit by the miners' strike. Reed Corrugated Cases experienced sharp rises in raw material costs related to the strength of the US dollar. Despite this, improved efficiency following rationalisation resulted in increased profits in the UK. Higher demand and greater efficiency increased profits in Holland. The group continues to develop plastic packaging in addition to traditional paper products.

Reed Trading. Spicers office products business continued to grow with improved profits. Maybank benefited from a very strong market for waste paper. Reed Carbonless Papers with a good production performance returned to profit. Spicer-Cowan significantly improved its profit prior to its sale in February 1985.

European Paper. In the first three quarters, UK mills lost £3m but returned to profit in the last quarter. Contributory factors to the turn round were: a fall in excessively high pulp prices; reduced energy costs resulting from in-

vestment in converting boilers from oil-burning to gas; and the planned closure of six paper and board machines. Themill in Holland with record sales achieved satisfactory profit.

North American Paper. The Quebec mill maintained full capacity working and continued the investment programme of machine upgrading. Profit improved as a result of higher US newsprint prices but margins in off-shore markets were poor. Chemical operations maintained profits but flexible packaging suffered a setback. The Greenville joint venture sawmill continued unprofitable and was sold at a loss of £2m.

Decorative Products. Following extensive rationalisation programmes, the group achieved modest profits. Since the year-end the Company has sold the Crown and Sunworthy wallcoverings businesses and is negotiating to sell Sanderson.

Taxation

The effective rate of taxation increased to 40% of profit before taxation (1984: 29%). The basic rate of Corporation Tax in the UK reduced from 50% to 45% but this was more than offset by the ending of stock relief and reduced capital allowances, which increased the effective rate from 33% to 41%.

The exhaustion of most brought forward losses in the USA increased the effective rate of overseas taxation from 23% to 39%.

Group Restructuring and Extraordinary Items

The Company sold its investments in Mirror Group Newspapers, London and Provincial Posters and Spicer-Cowan with a net surplus on divestment of £53m.

Most of the Group's remaining printing businesses were sold or closed with a net loss of £6m.

At the half-year, following the decision to close loss-making paper machines, the Board announced its intention to make provision for possible further rationalisation in some of the UK paper and board activities. The net provision amounts to £32m.

These items are reported as a net extraordinary gain of £15m.

Intangible Assets and Goodwill

A revised accounting policy for intangible assets and goodwill has been adopted. Publishing rights and titles and exhibition rights are stated at fair value on acquisition, and having no finite economic life are not subject to amortisation. Any other excess cost or goodwill is written-off against consolidated reserves. Previously capitalised goodwill of £50m has been written-off to reserves as a prior-year adjustment and the 1984 balance sheet restated.

Finance

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET		1985	1984
£ million			
Funds Invested			
Shareholders' Funds	649	597	
Outside Shareholders' Interests	4	4	
Loan Capital	177	171	
Net Overdraft (cash)	(6)	18	
	824	790	
Funds Employed			
Properties and Plant	448	436	
Investments	15	17	
Intangible Assets	106	63	
Working Capital	253	234	
Capital Employed	824	790	

Trading cash flow was £36m (1984: £64m) after capital expenditure of £103m (1984: £81m).

Proceeds from divestments were £146m (1984: £88m) and investment in new acquisitions totalled £70m (1984: £22m).

Net indebtedness at the end of the year was £171m (1984: £189m). The Debt/Equity Ratio was 32% (1984: 36%).

Earnings and Dividends

Profit attributable to shareholders before Extraordinary Items was Historical £64m (1984: £68m) and Current Cost £15m (1984: £30m) resulting in Earnings per Share of Historical 53.6p (1984: 57.7p) and Current Cost 12.5p (1984: 25.2p).

The Board has decided to recommend a final dividend of 12.75p per Ordinary Share making, together with the interim dividend of 5.75p already paid, a total of 18.5p for the year (1984: 16.5p), an increase of 12%.

Subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 23 July 1985, the final dividend will be paid on 13 August 1985 to shareholders on the register on 5 July 1985.

THE SMALLER COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL TRUST PLC.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1985

Shareholders' Funds	£35.3m	£28.7m	+23%
Net Asset Value	90.5p	73.6p	+23%
Earnings per share	1.73p	1.44p	+20%
Dividend per share	1.70p	1.55p	+10%
Currency exposure:			
United Kingdom	50%	57%	
North America	34%	22%	
Japan	16%	21%	

From the Chairman's statement:

"Over a 5-year period, to March 1985, the Trust is in the top quartile of all trusts for 'total return' performance, as published by the Association of Investment Trusts and is the top performer in the sector for investing in smaller companies."

An Investment Trust managed by

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from R W McGregory, CA, Edinburgh Fund Managers plc - Secretaries, 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB. Telephone 031-226 4931.

CARLESS

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CARLESS, CAPEL & LEONARD PLC
Oil and Gas Exploration and Production
Petrochemicals and Petroleum Fuels

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1985

	1985	1984
Turnover	132,274	99,555
Profit before taxation	8,548	4,944
Profit for the year	4,909	3,102
Dividends per share:		
Interim paid	1.00p	1.00p
Final proposed	1.75p	1.75p
Earnings per share	10.00p	5.50p

	£000	£000
Shareholders' funds	70,513	65,748
Capital expenditure	32,731	15,448

★ Profit before taxation for 1984/85 up 70% to £8.5 million.

★ Humby Grove oilfield development now under way.

★ Hornsea oilfield appraisal successful.

★ Three prime 9th Round offshore blocks awarded.

★ At least 6 onshore U.K. exploration wells planned this year.

★ Significant oil and gas acquisition in the United States.

★ Substantial profit growth from Solvents and Fuels divisions.

The above figures are extracted from the full accounts of the group on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion. The accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

Press Council guidelines for financial journalists

THE PRESS Council yesterday published guidelines for financial journalists in a new Declaration of Principle.

It is printed here in full: 1. The Press Council considers it undesirable for the professional conduct of financial journalists to be subject to special statutory or governmental regulation. It believes, however, that there are generally recognised ethical obligations and restraints which should be accepted voluntarily by journalists who write or handle financial material and by the newspapers and magazines which employ them.

2. The Press Council declares as a principle that financial journalists should not use for their own profit information which comes into their possession as a result of their jobs before that information has become public.

3. (i) In the observance of this principle, the Press Council does not believe it is reasonable to lay down generally that financial journalists ought not to own shares or other securities.

(ii) Journalists, however, should not write about shares or securities in whose performance they or their close families have a significant financial interest without disclosing the interest to their editor or financial editor.

(iii) Journalists should not buy or sell, either directly or through nominees or agents, shares or securities about which they have written recently or about which they intend to write in the near future.

(iv) Should unforeseen circumstances arise in which it is necessary for a journalist to write about shares or securities which he or she has recently bought or sold the editor or financial editor may release the journalist from the obligation under clause (iii).

(v) Financial journalists should not speculate by buying or selling shares or securities on a short-term basis.

(vi) Journalists should never buy or sell shares or securities about which as a result of their employment they possess unpublished information which may affect the shares' or securities' prices, nor should they pass such information to others.

4. The Press Council acknowledges and welcomes the general support already given by editors and journalists to the spirit of this declaration. It recognises also that in some cases newspapers and periodicals go further than the guidelines it has set out; for example by requiring that their financial journalists shall not own shares or securities at all.

5. Because of variations among newspapers and periodicals and the roles of financial journalists on them, the council does not think it would be helpful to put forward a rigid national code dealing with the conduct of financial journalists. No code could cover every case. Observance of the declaration depends on the discretion and sense of responsibility of editors and journalists. One useful simple test is for journalists to ask themselves: before buying or selling whether they would make the transaction if it were to be subject to public disclosure.

6. The Press Council will be ready to deal with complaints from any source that newspapers, periodicals or journalists have acted in breach of the spirit of this declaration or these guidelines, and holds itself free to initiate inquiries into apparent breaches of them without complaints having been made to it.

Peter Rodgers reports on the CDs, Rufs and Eurobonds that will soon boost home loans

Societies branch out in search for cash

MONEY BROKERS, City discount houses, merchant banks and Eurobond issuing firms are rubbing their hands with glee at the thought of the lucrative new business which they should soon be getting from building societies.

The White Paper is expected to quadruple the amount of money societies can raise from the wholesale money and bond markets from the present 5 per cent of their assets to as much as 20 per cent.

Mr Brian Phillips, general manager for finance and management services of the Nationwide, estimated in January that wholesale funding had already allowed societies to raise their gross mortgage lending by £4 billion between May, 1983 and September, 1984.

But once the limits are expanded to the new higher levels — in stages of course — it should transform the financing of the industry. It will also allow considerably more flexibility to societies which remain hamstrung by the vagaries of the savings market and the competition from banks and National Savings.

The learning progress has been rapid, if the experience

with certificates of deposit is anything to go by. Since January, 1984, the dozen largest societies have been empowered to issue CDs by the eminent decision to allow interest to be paid gross. They have been prominent in the market, raising almost £750 million in March this year compared with nothing 15 months before.

At first there were dire warnings that societies would pay a substantial premium for the new money, but this has not happened, although societies do tend to concentrate on the shorter maturity CDs which in effect are just what they say, certificates showing a deposit has been made. They are tradeable bits of paper, not unlike short dated bills.

Mr Jack Frost of City discount house Cater Allen says "The market is pretty good." Society CDs up to one month maturity are trading at parity with banks, two to three month CDs are marginally more expensive to issue but often very close to banks, though as the maturities stretch to six months the differential with the best banks widens.

Beyond six months societies still appear to prefer conventional wholesale deposits,

where if anything he believes societies are selling themselves short by paying too much, though they are pleased enough with the rates which are currently well below the cost of retail funds.

With the growth of balance sheets, more building societies such as the Bristol & West are creeping above the £2 billion level which the registrar has set as the minimum size to be allowed to issue CDs.

The building society CD market accounts for nearly

only £386 million a year earlier.

Having dipped a toe in the water, there are plenty of other techniques available for funding the expansion expected in a couple of years time. Halifax and Alliance for example have recently been into the syndicated loan market, securing funds from groups of banks which have helped rebuild liquidity, which was run down sharply at the year end.

The Halifax has even ventured into one of the buzzword areas of the markets,

waiting to see if the "specialised" entry next year to the Eurobond market, following a budget announcement that from 1986 they will be able to pay interest gross on Eurobonds.

Some of the early enthusiasm has been tempered, but this market is bound to be attractive for major societies because it offers a huge Europe-wide source of funds at a time when sterling Euro issues are thriving.

Floating rate paper can be sold in the Euro markets to financial institutions and at fixed rate to retail buyers, so that interest rates can be locked in for long periods, avoiding the vagaries of ordinary funding.

Further ahead, there is a possibility that societies may be able to sell mortgage backed securities on the US pattern. This is at present prohibited by mortgage deeds and there would have to be substantial changes to allow it to happen.

But the direct security of a package of private mortgages to back a loan has already proved attractive to foreign banks and merchant banks in London which are busily negotiating to lend money to local authorities on this basis.

There is a great advantage

for societies in ending their overdependence on retail deposits, so that they do not have to pay over the odds and bid up the whole high street market in an attempt to satisfy mortgage demand. But wholesale money markets require difficult skills.

A run on a bank can happen instantly in the wholesale markets and societies would certainly not be allowed to make a major change in their funding patterns on the basis of the present low liquidity ratios which have been allowed only because they are such basically simple organisations.

The complexities of the money markets will demand a move to much stronger capital backing. The Registrar of Friendly Societies is expected to propose, in his long awaited capital adequacy paper, a system very much like that applied to banks.

It would be intriguing to see whether he would allow low cost single branch societies to move even deeper into wholesale funding to exploit its relative cheapness, paralleling the Bank of Scotland's attempt to develop branchless banking in England. That could pose a challenge for the large retail branch networks of major societies.

'Wholesale money markets require difficult skills... a run on a bank can happen instantly in the wholesale markets'

half the gross funds raising by societies in the wholesale markets. Ordinary time deposits account for another £420 million, straight bank loans for 90 million and negotiable bonds, where the market was pioneered by Nationwide and Abbey, another £63 million.

These are all Building Societies Association figures for March. The wholesale total in March of almost £1,330 million compared with

the revolving underwriting facility, or Ruf, which is now very fashionable with banks. A Ruf guarantees that short term funds will be available over a long period.

Some societies are rather dubious about the merits of the syndicated loan market, where the funds can be relatively expensive, and it has not yet caught on in a big way. Syndicated loans do require some flexibility. What everybody is really

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Burton and Habitat Mothercare — two of the most successful retailers in the UK. Innovators with the flair to create outstanding retail businesses. Both companies have superb growth records. Both have proved that their exciting ideas

can be made to work in large spaces as well as small. To be a successful retailer Debenhams needs the vision and retail management skills of Burton and Habitat Mothercare. — They have bags more style. — That's why they produce bags more profit.

Debenhams often promise Burton always delivers.

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habitat/mothercare

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCK DESCRIBED BELOW IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCK ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE 1985.

PARTICULARS OF AN ISSUE OF £900,000,000 10 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 2004

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS
Amount paid on issue: £30.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 15th July 1985: £66.75 per cent
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 18TH MAY AND 18TH NOVEMBER

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List. £900,000,000 of the above Stock has been issued to the Bank of England on 4th June 1985 at a price of £96.75 per cent. The amount paid on issue was £30.00 per cent and the amount payable on 15th July 1985 will be £66.75 per cent. The balance of £210,000,000 of the Stock has been reserved for the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management.

The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Stock will be repaid at par on 18th May 2004. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing, in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 18th May and 18th November. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than 25 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first interest payment will be made on 18th November 1985 at the rate of £3.9004 per £100 of the Stock.

Until payment in full has been made and a completed registration form submitted to the Bank of England, the Stock will be represented by letters of allotment.

Payment in full may be made at any time prior to 15th July 1985 but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on any overdue amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven days plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the due date for the relevant payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source or sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate. Default in due payment of any amount in respect of the Stock will render the allotment of such Stock liable to cancellation and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, on any date not later than 11th July 1985. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment.

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the final instalment is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 15th July 1985.

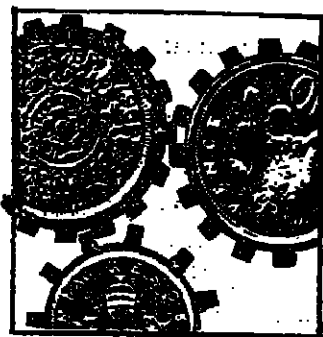
Copies of this notice may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EB; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyné Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colonnade, London, EC2R 6AN; or at any office of The Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

Government statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 25th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England nor their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose or to make any statement which might be expected to give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
4th June 1985

The Treasury refuses to publish figures for the direct cost of unemployment, but NEIL FRASER and ADRIAN SINFIELD have done their own calculations

£20bn — the cost of Britain's dole queue



ECONOMICS AGENDA

WHAT ARE THE costs of unemployment? There are many different components in the total cost to the unemployed and to society including the social costs of increased ill-health and wasted lives. Here we concentrate on measuring the direct costs to the Exchequer — the costs of benefits to the unemployed and the loss of revenue from the loss of jobs.

The Treasury itself estimated the direct Exchequer costs of unemployment in its Economic Progress Report of February, 1981 but has since refused to publish any updating of its work, beyond giving the benefit costs of unemployment. In reply to Parliamentary questions Ministers defend their refusal to estimate the loss of government revenue through unemployment by saying, for example, that it "depends on the causes of unemployment" (Mr Rees, December 13, 1984).

The argument is rather obscure. It seems to mean that, if unemployment is due to unsustainable earnings levels, it would be wrong to use those earnings levels in calculating lost taxes. But

cutting down earnings assumptions for the unemployed can be made — as the Treasury did in 1981, and probably in its unpublished paper in 1982. One should also recognise as almost everyone but the Government seems to do these days, that deflationary policies do play a major role in explaining unemployment.

The table summarises our results for direct Exchequer costs of unemployment in 1984-85. The benefits total, the more straightforward to estimate, includes National Insurance Unemployment Benefit, Supplementary Benefit, Housing Benefit, benefits to those aged 60 to 65 who no longer register, and the Government's contribution to redundancy payments.

The revenue loss arises not only for the registered unemployed but also for those who would work were more jobs available (especially housewives and early retirees). Another difficult assumption is the choice of earnings level had they been in work.

We tried to follow the procedures of government economists in the past — when they were allowed to make these estimates — in deriving a figure for this we came up with £110 per week as average for all unemployed and for the average tax rate.

Our estimate of the total cost is therefore around £20 billion, or £6,600 per registered unemployed person.

We are not arguing that unemployment could be reduced to zero or that this would save £20 billion. We would rather use our figure in estimating the cost of the increase in unemployment from a particular date or in comparison with performance elsewhere. For example, the unemployment rate when the Conservatives came to office in May 1979 was 5.4 per

cent. The Exchequer cost of unemployment at that level now would be some £12.5 billion less than the present total. And if unemployment in Britain had increased no faster than in France or Germany, the Exchequer would have saved some £7.5 billion and employment would have been 1.5 million higher.

We have also attempted to calculate for a hard-pressed local authority the spending and revenue losses attributable to unemployment. With Cleveland County Council's help, we estimated some of these costs for that authority at £490 per year for each extra registered unemployed. This included extra spending on free school meals, staying on in sixth form and further education, services for the unemployed, and losses in revenue and rates. However, we have not added these to the Exchequer costs because we do not know how typical these are.

The loss of income to the unemployed themselves can also be calculated. This is the difference between their net pay in work (using the same assumptions about earnings levels as in the Exchequer cost calculations) and their benefit income out of work. The total loss of income by all registered unemployed comes out at \$8,786 billion for the year 1984-85 or £2,120 per person per year. These costs are higher, and the Exchequer costs lower,

because the Government have cut, abolished and taxed benefits. Abolishing the earnings related supplement to NI benefit and other benefit changes transferred some £500 million a year. Taking NI benefit has removed another £625 million a year from the unemployed. The average annual loss of income to the unemployed has increased by £51 (16.67) for the benefit and tax changes alone, ignoring other cuts such as those in free school meals.

The full economic cost of unemployment to the nation is the lost output now and (because of lost investment) in the future. This lost output constitutes lost incomes — to the Government and to the unemployed, with a residual in lost profits, lost self-employed income etc. And this loss of income, by reducing spending, has exacerbated the loss of jobs.

What is the significance of our estimates? First, the calculations bring out the scale of the Government's deflationary fiscal policies. The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement target is set so low that it does not even cover the cost of unemployment's rise relative to our European neighbours. This is a remarkable stance with well over three million unemployed.

Secondly, the cost of job creation is much reduced by the savings in the Exchequer costs of unemployment. The gross costs of projects employing people at the earnings level in our calculations should be reduced by around £6,300 per person removed from the unemployment count. Estimates obtained by Christopher Hume gave the net cost of removing one person from the register by public investment at £14,000, using the National Institute model, and £20,500, using the Treasury model (Guardian, De-

cember 13, 1984). These figures would be lower the more labour intensive the project. Paul Ormerod of the Henley Centre, for Forecasting, has argued that the labour content of public infrastructure spending would reduce the net cost per person removed from the unemployment count to only £7,000 (The Times, April 11). Given these figures, some expansion of public borrowing to finance needed public investment would have economic and social benefits and cut the appalling costs of unemployment.

We are not arguing that paying people in state jobs costs no more than the dole. As Samuel Brittan has pointed out "basically all that the Government can pay someone on a public payroll at no net cost is the saving in benefit grossed up for tax" (Financial Times, January 15, 1981). The net cost of the Community Programme is very low (around £2,000 per person) because the pay level on the programme is not much more than that. But it is a very negative approach to minimise the net cost in job creation. Attention should also be paid to the value of output. It is the need for renewed infrastructure and restored services which strengthens the argument for a revival in regular public spending as well as special programmes.



ZOLA BUDD: Still struggling for international acceptance

John Rodda in East Berlin

Soviet visa threat to Zola's race plans

ATHLETICS

ZOLA BUDD could run into problems in her competitive programme this summer. The British selectors have already pencilled her in for the national team to take part in the European Cup final in Moscow in August but there are doubts about her receiving an entry visa for the Soviet Union.

A Soviet athletics official who is in Berlin for the International Olympic Committee session said that there could be a problem. The athletic magazines of both East Germany and the Soviet Union have deliberately omitted Miss Budd from their 1984 international ranking lists at 1,500 metres and also at 3,000 metres, the event in which she competed

in the Olympic final in Los Angeles. When questioned about these omissions, the Soviet official first said that Miss Budd was not British. He then changed his answer to say that she was a dual passport holder.

It was then that he said that there might be a problem about the issuing of a visa. No doubt the British Amateur Athletic Board will quickly take this matter up to ensure that the USSR accepts Miss Budd as a fully-eligible athlete under the rules of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

It is as well that this matter is made known now in order to give the administrations of both countries time to take action and for the IAAF and the European Association to ensure that Miss Budd competes in the

TENNIS

Curren is top casualty

SEEDED players tumbled out of the Beckenham tournament yesterday, the top casualty being Kevin Curren, the official favourite. He was eased out 7-5, 7-5 by Darren Cahill, a 19-year-old Australian playing his first match in Britain.

Cahill, ranked 265th in the world, said afterwards: "I have to qualify for Wimbledon so I want to make the most of playing on grass here."

Unfortunately that was to last a little over three hours, when Cahill had to take the court again, only to be beaten 7-6, 6-1 by the American Matt Anger.

Beckenham has now lost half the men's seeds with Scott Davies, Ben Testerman, Tim Wilkinson, Mike Leach and the Indian Vijay Amritraj joining the vanquished yesterday. Amritraj finished with a suspected broken thumb after a heavy fall in losing 6-7, 7-5, 6-1 to Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia.

Leighton Alfred of Wales put up a great fight against Boris Becker, the German holder of the world junior masters title. Alfred, after saving a match point in the 10th game of the second set bravely forced the deciding tie-break but then went to pieces and was beaten 6-2, 5-7, 7-6.

British players fared better at the Northern Championships at Didsbury where Jeremy Bates and Nick Fulwood knocked out highly-rated players to reach the quarter-finals.

Bates, the defending champion, beat the fifth seed, New Zealand's Russell Simpson, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, while Fulwood of Derbyshire defeated the American Tom Warneke in straight sets.

Fulwood said of his recent success: "I owe it all to my new coach Chris Bradnam. He completely changed my image as well as my game. He told me there was no limit to how far I could go."

Graham Snowdon with the Milk Race

Attacking Knickman takes the lead

CYCLING

The United States, down to just two riders after a series of crashes, amazingly regained the individual leader's yellow jersey from the Soviet Union team in yesterday's thrilling ninth stage of the Milk Race.

Roy Knickman was the hero of a 73-mile leg starting and finishing at Middlesbrough. He begins today's potentially harder stage from Richmond to Halifax with a two-minute eight-second lead over Eric van Lancker of the Faggo (Belgium) professional team.

Thomas Kirsipuu (USSR), the previous leader, missed an important split in the field which came just after the Westerdale climb and he now drops to third overall, a further three seconds down. It is the first time since 1977 that the Soviets, having taken a Milk Race lead, have forfeited the yellow jersey.

Knickman, first out of the final corner at the end of 16 laps of a 2.3-mile finishing circuit, was pushed to the rear of a leading quartet with van Lancker taking the sprint from Allen Andersson (Sweden) and the only other American survivor, Jeff Pierce. But the stage result was by then largely academic.

Twenty-year-old Knickman had put in a searing attack around 22 miles shortly after the field had split, taking the Swede with him. "Straight away I knew the yellow jersey was in the rear half of the field, so I just put my head down and went," he said.

He and Andersson had 45 seconds on a group of 17 as they came onto the final circuit. When van Lancker chased with eight laps left, Pierce sat on him. Once it was apparent they were going to bridge the gap, they worked well together and caught the leaders with 15 miles to ride.

By the finish, the four were 73 seconds ahead. A despon-

dent Kirsipuu, having tried in vain to claw back some time, came in at the back of the next group a further 81 seconds adrift.

● Paolo Rosola, from Italy, won the 128km 18th stage of the Giro d'Italia classic yesterday with a last-ditch sprint to the finish. With 100m to go, Rosola made a surprise move to the front when he stole up on the inside of Urs Freuler and crossed the line fractionally ahead of the Swiss, robbing him of what had looked like certain victory.

France's Bernard Hinault manoeuvred carefully to stay at the front of the pack, and retained the overall race leader's pink jersey for the seventh consecutive stage.

● The world professional road race champion, Claude Criquielion of Belgium, heads a strong field in the Tour de Suisse which begins next Tuesday. Others taking part in the 11-stage, 1,569-kilometre race include former world champion Giuseppe Saronni of Italy, Irishman Sean Kelly, and two of this year's classic winners, Belgian Eric Vanderaerden and Phil Anderson of Australia.

THE MILK RACE — Stage Nine (Middlesbrough, 73 miles): 1. E. Knickman (Faggo, USA) 2:54:34; 2. A. Andersson (Sweden) 2:54:34; 3. J. Pierce (USA) 2:54:34; 4. E. van Lancker (Belgium) 2:54:34; 5. V. Kirsipuu (USSR) 2:54:34; 6. C. Walker (GB) same time.

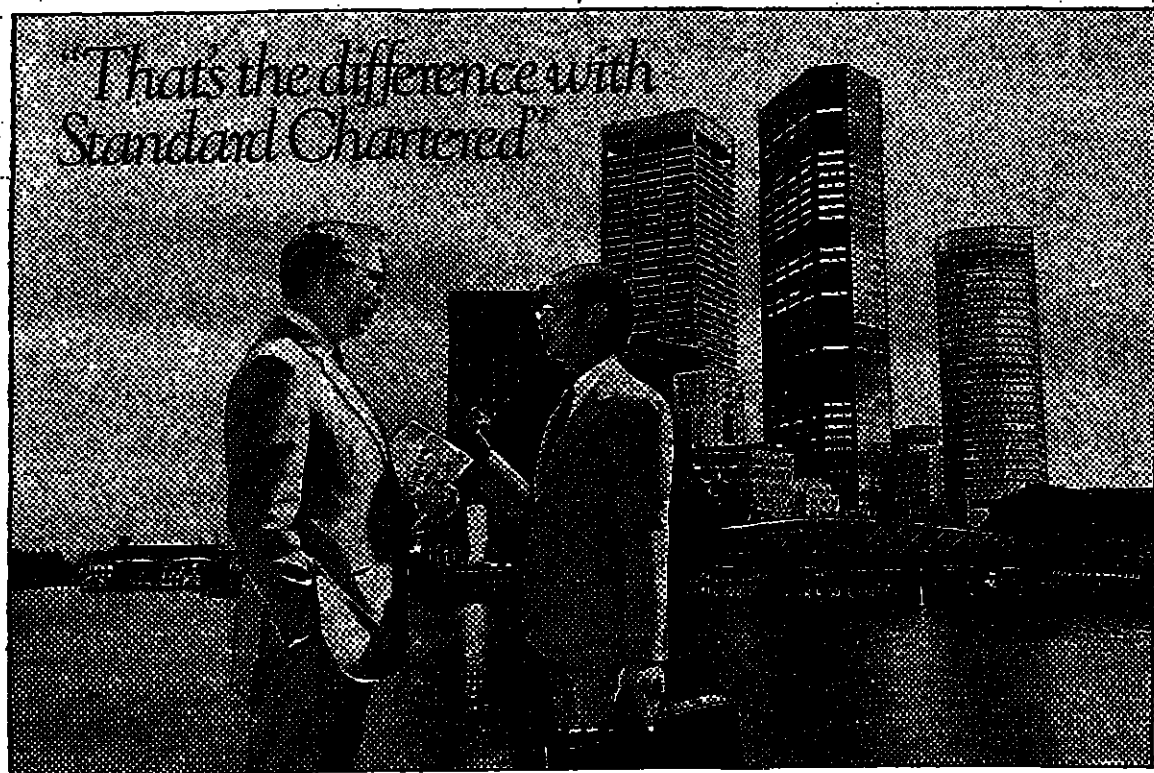
Team Result: 1. Great Britain 8:43:54; 2. Sweden 8:44:20; 3. Faggo Belgium 8:44:20; 4. USSR 8:44:20; 5. Ireland 8:44:20; 6. Poland same time.

OVERALL: 1. R. Knickman 33hrs 17mins 53secs; 2. USSR 33:20:01; 3. T. Kirsipuu 33:20:01; 4. J. Pierce 33:20:01; 5. E. van Lancker 33:20:01; 6. C. Walker 33:20:01.

OVERALL TEAMS: 1. USSR 9hrs 54mins 54secs; 2. Great Britain 8:43:54; 3. Sweden 8:44:20; 4. Faggo Belgium 8:44:20; 5. Ireland 8:44:20; 6. Poland 8:44:20.

RUGBY UNION: Full back Mark Wyatt scored 20 points as Canada crushed South Australia 24-16 in Adelaide yesterday. The 24-year-old British Columbian scored two conversions, four penalties and a try.

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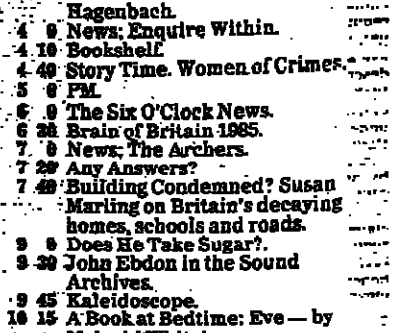
AVERAGES

compiled by Bill Frindall

BATTING					BOWLING				
(Qualification: 8 innings, 10 wickets)					(Qualification: 8 innings, 10 wickets)				
	Runs	Wickets	Runs	Wickets		Runs	Wickets	Runs	Wickets
W. Randall	119	10	586	117.38	P. J. W. Allitt	282.4	79	416	39.54
T. Hooley	112	9	727	89.11	W. H. Hargrave	334.6	55	412	18.7
S. K. Duggan	102	8	598	102.5	D. W. D. Brown	345.4	52	412	18.7
C. L. Smith	102	8	598	102.5	D. W. D. Brown	345.4	52	412	18.7
A. L. Lynch	102	8	145*	81.9	C. W. Cooper	385.27	58	327	18.28
T. M. Lister	102	8	146*	82.5	D. W. D. Brown	345.4	52	412	18.7
D. L. Smith	102	8	146*	82.5	D. W. D. Brown	345.4	52	412	18.7
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Radio 4

5 Shipping Forecast.
6 News Briefs.
7 Evening Today.
8 Prayer for the Day.
9 Today including (P. 8 & 9) News
10 News, Parliament.
11 News, Flatholm. Peter Francisco
the tiny island in the Bristol
Channel.
12 News. Monie. Lonnie Taylor
investigates family fortunes.
13 News, Medicine Now.
14 Morning Story, Arctic Train, by
15 The Arctic Train.
16 An Act of Worship.
17 Analysis: David Wheeler on the
Liberal Party's prospects in the
18 1968 General Election.
19 One Man and His Bog.
20 News; You and Yours. Consumer
affairs.
21 22 After Henry.
23 The World at One.
24 The Archers.
25 News, Woman's Hour.
26 News; The Afternoon Play. A
27 News; The Afternoon Play. A
28 News; The Afternoon Play. A



years, with one now a priest, one an academic re-opens an old emotional

11 15 The Financial World Tonight 11 15
 13 30 Today in Parliament 13 30
 News, weather; interval 13 30
 15 30
 15 30-10 45 am Schools 11 0-12 30
 Schools 1 55 pm Listening Corner 2 55
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 Open University 12 30-10 10 am
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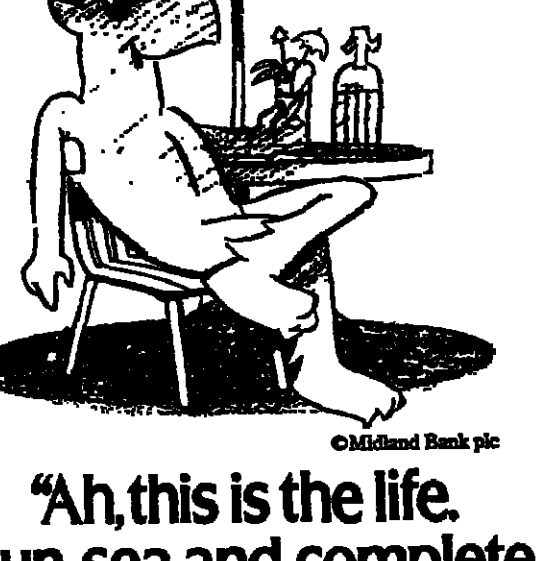
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Nurses say no to poolside anatomy lesson

By Sarah Bosely

IT MIGHT be thought that there is not much in the male anatomy that could shock a nurse, but the mural on the nurses' home swimming pool wall at Bart's in London was just too much.

This morning a heavy coat of whitewash will cover the technique of full frontal pedicling male surrounded by other naked males, as St Bartholomew's administrator, Mr Ken Grant, described it. It was just "not appropriate," he said.

Some might say — and no doubt Mr John Hewett, the south London artist who painted it would agree — that they got what they asked for, which was "something sporting and Greek," but the fact remains that since the mural was unveiled a couple of weeks ago Mr Grant has received "numerous complaints."

He said: "It could have been seen by parents who are bringing their 16 and 17-year-old daughters to see if this is a suitable place for them to do their nursing training. It didn't add anything to the swimming pool."

Bart's knows a thing or two about murals, of course. Their walls were adorned by Hogarth a couple of centuries ago. Somehow, though, they feel that Hewett would not have stood the test of time quite so well. Mr Grant said: "I'm very anxious not to be seen to obliterate art, but I don't think this is in the same league."

Despite the rumours that attempts had been made to touch up and make the least of the mural, Mr Grant said: "The mural is a naughty bit of the principal Adonis with flesh-yellow paint. Mr Grant insisted that there had been no cosmetic tampering. It was to be a total whitewash, he said, and no messing."

He claims that the district accommodation officer, who commissioned the work did not have full authority to do so in the first place, because the design was not approved by anybody more senior. On the other hand, "She assumed that the design was changed between being submitted and the mural being finished." And no, it was not a joke all along, but an attempt to brighten up the swimming pool.

Mr Grant said he had written to the accommodation officer and it was up to her to tell Mr Hewett what had happened.

IoM ferry link

An American company is planning to re-launch the ferry service between Liverpool and the Isle of Man, it was announced yesterday.

The company, which is called the Isle of Man Ferry Link, is a joint venture between the American company, the British company, and the Isle of Man government.

The company is planning to launch a new ferry service between Liverpool and the Isle of Man, which will be the first new service in over 20 years.

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Unpublished DHSS figures double impact of housing benefit changes

Seven million face rates aid cut

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Seven million of the 7.5 million people claiming housing benefit are to face cuts in assistance towards their rent and rates bills according to internal Department of Health and Social Security figures which have been withheld from the Government's green paper on the reform of the welfare state.

The cuts are more than double those publicly admitted by Mr Jeremy Rowe, who chaired the independent inquiry into the future of the benefit set up by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary.

The size of the cuts is caused by Mr Fowler's decision to overrule Mr Rowe's findings and insist that all claimants — including the unemployed — pay 20 per cent of their local rates bill and all their water

rates. This has reduced the number of people who would have gained from the simplification of housing benefit from nearly 2 million to about 500,000.

The only beneficiaries are understood to be low paid workers who fall below the supplementary benefit poverty line. They gain 100 per cent rent rebates which more than compensate for their paying 20 per cent of their rates bills.

Details of the internal DHSS calculations have been obtained by Mr Gordon Brown, the Labour MP for Dunfermline East. They are part of a wider set of figures which Mr Fowler ordered to be run on the computer so that the Cabinet understood the full implications of his proposals. These include replacing supplementary benefit by a new income support, and family income supplement by family credit.

Mr Brown demanded last night that Mr Fowler publish all the figures which show the effect of the new system on existing benefit rates.

According to the internal figures 6 million claimants will lose £1.40 or more a week from their benefits — mainly to meet their share of rate bills.

Out of the 6 million some 650,000 will lose more than £3 a week, and 150,000 over £6 a week. About a million people will lose between 50p and £1.40.

The calculations, which also rely on data from the Family Expenditure Survey prepared by the Government, reveal that about 700,000 people may be entitled to housing benefit but are not claiming it at the moment. This means that the total number of people who could claim the benefit is 3.2 million — some 1.7 million higher than the Government anticipated a year ago, despite

a series of cuts already implemented by Mr Fowler.

Over half the people who face losses will be occupational pensioners, many of them relying on pensions as low as £10 or £12 above the basic state pension per week. Many are also constituents of Conservative backbench MPs living in seaside towns.

Other groups badly affected include single parents, although they may benefit through some extra cash from the new rate of income support.

Mr Geoffrey Otton, second permanent secretary at the DHSS, is to be appointed chairman of the new Social Security Management Board.

Mr Geoffrey, who will receive no additional pay for taking on the job, will chair a committee of civil servants and private management advisers with responsibility to imple-

ment the changes in the green paper.

The board, which is similar to the recently created NHS Management Board, will report directly to Mr Fowler on the best way to plan and deliver an economical social security service. It will have a special responsibility to ensure that computerisation is not introduced.

Mr Geoffrey, who will be 58 next Monday, has held his present job since 1979. He was previously chief adviser to the now defunct Supplementary Benefits Commission, set up by the last Labour government, and has extensive knowledge of social security.

He has a reputation for being candid, and admitted to the Commons Public Accounts Committee earlier this year that housing benefit had been partly because ministers did not allocate enough resources to make it work properly.

Mr Trevor Bell, COSA's general secretary and a member of the NUM executive, said last night that the NUM was in an "organised" mood after the miners' strike. He said that the NUM's internal structure was an issue of paramount importance for the NUM's annual conference in Sheffield next month.

Though next week's meeting with Mr Scargill will centre only on revision in representation, the COSA leaders are expected to be questioned by the NUM's leader on the future direction of the union. Any positive action is not likely to follow until after the NUM's annual conference.

Mr Peter McNulty, general secretary of the Supervisors' Union (the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shifters), yesterday announced that the union had agreed to a new three-year contract which would see the union's role reduced to that of a "watchdog" over the NUM's safety procedures.

The NUM's future hangs on a proposal to link it under ground with Tower, a colliery in the next valley.

The scheme, which has yet to be approved, would see £400,000 and all coal would be wound to the surface up Tower's shafts. About 200 of Maerdy's 723 jobs would go.

Mrs Barbara Williams, secretary of the local women's support group, a multiple sclerosis sufferer who herself is expected to be "around the clock" in the next few days, said: "It seems as though the fight to keep the pit open will have to continue. We women are well aware of that and will be ready when the time comes."

Maerdy became known in the 1930s as Little Moscow, named after the Russian capital, because of its many miners who were of Russian descent.

Mr McNulty explained the board had now agreed that there should be no run-down of manpower once a pit had been put into the procedure.

Talks will now proceed with the other mining unions, including the NUM, on a revised procedure which would increase the NUM's role in safety, but the composition of which has still to be decided.

The NCB last night welcomed the NCB's decision. Mr James Cowan, the deputy chairman, agreed that both sides had reached a workable understanding.

Pit deputies end overtime ban over closures

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The internal problems of the National Union of Mineworkers moved on to centre stage again yesterday as the pit supervisors called off their overtime ban.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, have been invited to appear before the COSA executive to discuss the representation of the white collar section within the NUM.

Mr Trevor Bell, COSA's general secretary and a member of the NUM executive, said last night that the NUM was in an "organised" mood after the miners' strike. He said that the NUM's internal structure was an issue of paramount importance for the NUM's annual conference in Sheffield next month.

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Britain joins in airlift to Sudan

By Nick Cater

Britain is providing a Hercules cargo plane to join a famine airlift of supplies into western Sudan. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The civilian charter aircraft will join three EEC-provided planes ferrying seed, and special food for malnourished children, into the Darfur region for a month. Britain is also donating a light aircraft for use by voluntary agencies.

The region has almost run out of food, an old rail link is unable to cope with the relief effort, and the transport problems will increase in the wet season when most roads will be impassable.

Mr Hugh Mackay, overseas director of the Save the Children Fund which is responsible for Darfur food distribution, said: "One thousand tonnes of food a day should be moving along the rail line, but only 200 tonnes are getting through. Up to 1.5 million people will die unless the situation improves immediately."

The EEC signed an agreement yesterday to spend £8 million on Sudan's railways, of which the British share is £1 million, but Mr Mackay said: "The EEC has got to break every record to get the rail link to the west working at full speed."

While the start of the rains in Ethiopia has encouraged many refugees in eastern Sudan to begin the long trek home, hundreds of Sudanese are dying elsewhere every day.

Aid agency officials in Khartoum remain deeply concerned at the failure of the military-backed regime to give transport problems top priority.



The coach in which three people died yesterday

Three die in crash at new bypass

By Gareth Parry

Three people died and 41 were injured yesterday when their coach was in collision with an articulated lorry on a new 27 million bypass which was described as "below standard and dangerous" when it opened three weeks ago.

The side of the coach, which was making a regular daily run from Cambridge to Luton, was ripped open in the crash on a single carriageway section of the A11, at Attleborough, Norfolk.

Witnesses said the lorry, a registered lorry, was overtaking another vehicle when it jack-knifed.

Fourteen of the passengers were seriously injured in the 47-seat coach owned by a Cambridge firm but operating as part of the National Express service. They were taken to hospital in a convoy of ambulances and another coach as police sealed off the scene of the crash.

The five-mile bypass, based on a design drawn up nearly 50 years ago, was officially opened on May 12 by the Transport Minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker. Local people warned that it was already an accident black spot.

Mr John Alston, leader of Norfolk County Council, complained at the opening ceremony that the road was dangerous. Mr Alston, who lives in Attleborough, said yesterday: "I knew it was a rotten road the moment I saw the plans."

He accused the Department of Transport of downgrading the bypass in order to cut costs. Mr Tom Syford, a local councillor, said: "The original plan was produced in 1937, and we have been arguing about it ever since."

The French lorry driver, who escaped unhurt, later made a statement to the police.

Harriers end tour of duty

Continued from page one

were deployed partly as a second line of defence, while the Phantoms patrolled the 150-mile Falklands protection zone.

Asked if the withdrawal signalled any Government loss of interest in defending the Falklands, the spokesman said: "Not at all. The airport is evidence of a most tangible commitment, and a very capable defence force remains."

Elected councillors were told privately of the move in advance and were untroubled.

Alan Travis adds: A further £89 million is to be spent on the new airport before it becomes fully operational early next year, the Department of Environment revealed last night in a written Commons answer.

Sir George Young, the minister responsible for the Property Services Agency, which is supervising the cost of Mount Pleasant airport said in answer to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dayrell, that the extra bill did not include further cash to be spent on a separate project providing Army accommodation and a port. The most recent estimate of the total cost of building the airport was put at £250 million.

Airports compromise to quell Tory revolt

Continued from page one

will fall for Mr Ridley's juggling trick between Stansted and Heathrow. To say that air traffic movements at Heathrow should not be constrained, but to pretend that the Government will hold Stansted to 8 million passenger movements per year will fool nobody.

But it was evident that the Cabinet believes the juggling trick has succeeded, and that a way has been found of breaking the logjam which has stopped previous schemes for airport reorganisation. Mr Julian Amery, the veteran MP for Brighton Pavilion, noted in his congratulations for Mr Ridley that he had come to the decision which Mr Amery himself had reached 21 years ago.

Mr Hughes said: "Nobody

will fall for Mr Ridley's juggling trick between Stansted and Heathrow. To say that air traffic movements at Heathrow should not be constrained, but to pretend that the Government will hold Stansted to 8 million passenger movements per year will fool nobody.

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Mr Hughes said: "Nobody

Hopes raised for man trapped in well

By Anne McHardy

Faint hopes were raised yesterday for Ramanus Girenas, the man buried alive in a well after a fresh air supply was discovered inside the collapsed shaft.

Firemen and civil engineers continued working through the 50-foot well at the home of Mr Reginald Morgan at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, in which Mr Girenas was buried on Sunday evening. Estimates last night were that they should reach the bottom by this morning.

The island's chief fire officer, Mr John Bowker, said the discovery of the air supply had raised hopes for Mr Girenas, aged 22, a friend of the Morgan family who was helping with building work at the house.

Mr Bowker's team were digging out rubble by hand, but because of fears that drills could cause further collapses.

Mr Girenas' family, including his Lithuanian-born father and his three brothers, kept watch above ground.

Mr Ramanus Girenas: helping with building work

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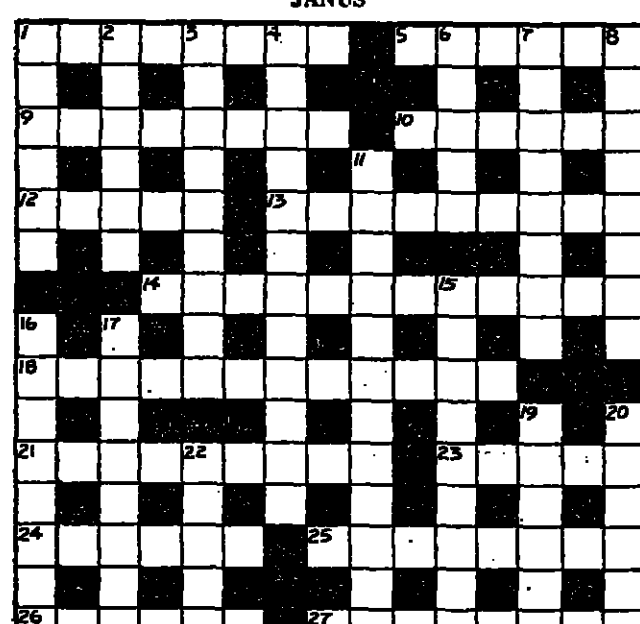
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Mr Ramanus Girenas: helping with building work

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,255

JANUS



ACROSS

- Being a sniper leaves its impression on one (8).
- Promotion for conceited young man at outset (4, 2).
- Paint word-picture of French penman... (18).
- ... more appropriate to a mechanic (6).
- Girl getting point about another girl (5).
- Embarrassed about ambassador's being denied (10).
- Delirious girl seen around the garden (8, 4).
- Critical view of increase in value (12).
- Figure it right to include city point of view (9).
- Job taking an hour in the centre (5).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,254

1. Being a sniper leaves its impression on one (8).
2. Promotion for conceited young man at outset (4, 2).
3. Paint word-picture of French penman... (18).
4. ... more appropriate to a mechanic (6).
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6. Embarrassed about ambassador's being denied (10).
7. Delirious girl seen around the garden (8, 4).
8. Critical view of increase in value (12).
9. Figure it right to include city point of view (9).
10. Job taking an hour in the centre (5).

THE WEATHER

Sun and showers

A THUNDERY depression over the English Channel will move NE into the Continent during the day, while a cold front is pushed slowly S across England and Wales by a ridge of high pressure developing to the NW of Britain.

London, Midlands, S Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of thundery rain, West mainly light or moderate. Max 18-20 (16-18).
S. West, S. East, S. Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, mainly E. light or moderate. Max 18-20 (16-18).
S. West, S. East, S. Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, mainly E. light or moderate. Max 18-20 (16-18).

LIGHTNING-TIMES
Belfast 10.20, London 10.20, Manchester 10.20, Newcastle 10.20, Nottingham 10.20, Oxford 10.20, Plymouth 10.20, Southampton 10.20, Swansea 10.20, Cardiff 10.20, Exeter 10.20, Gloucester 10.20, Hereford 10.20, Ipswich 10.20, Leicester 10.20, Lincoln 10.20, Loughborough 10.20, Luton 10.20, Milton Keynes 10.20, Northampton 10.20, Peterborough 10.20, Reading 10.20, Slough 10.20, Stevenage 10.20, Stratford-upon-Avon 10.20, Telford 10.20, Torquay 10.20, Truro 10.20, Walsley 10.20, Warrington 10.20, Warwick 10.20, Wells 10.20, Westbury 10.20, Weston-super-Mare 10.20, Weymouth 10.20, Wigan 10.20, Wilmslow 10.20, Windsor 10.20, Woking 10.20, Worcester 10.20, Wrexham 10.20, York 10.20.

SEA-TIDE TABLE
London Bridge 4.48 am, 5.04 pm
Dover 4.48 am, 5.04 pm
Liverpool 4.48 am, 5.04 pm

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Alaska	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Algeria	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Amsterdam	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Antwerp	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Athens	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Bahia	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Bombay	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Buenos Aires	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Calcutta	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Canton	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Cebu	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Colon	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Hankow	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Hong Kong	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Kobe	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
London	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Lyons	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Manila	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Medan	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Osaka	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Panama	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Peking	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Rangoon	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
San Francisco	57	W 10	1-3	1-3
Shanghai	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Singapore	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Sourabaya	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Tientsin	77	W 10	1-3	1-3
Yokohama	77	W 10	1-3	1-3

AROUND BRITAIN

AROUND BRITAIN					
Reports weather:	for the 24	hours	ended:	for	
	Sea- state	Wind	Max. temp.	Min. temp.	Wet days
ENGLAND					
London	0.1	57	30	63	Bright on
Birmingham	0.2	55	30	63	Bright on
Bristol	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Cardiff	2.4	57	32	63	Sunny
Edinburgh	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Blackpool	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Manchester	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Nottingham	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Oxford	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Plymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Sheffield	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Southampton	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Stoke-on-Trent	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Swansea	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Torquay	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Walsley	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warrington	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warwick	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Wells	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Westbury	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weston-super-Mare	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
EAST COAST					
Truro	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Exeter	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Cardinal	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Stratford	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
London	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Manchester	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Nottingham	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Oxford	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Plymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Sheffield	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Southampton	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Stoke-on-Trent	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Swansea	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Torquay	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Walsley	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warrington	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warwick	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Wells	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Westbury	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weston-super-Mare	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
SOUTH COAST					
Folkestone	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
London	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Manchester	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Nottingham	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Oxford	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Plymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Sheffield	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Southampton	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Stoke-on-Trent	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Swansea	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Torquay	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Walsley	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warrington	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warwick	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Wells	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Westbury	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weston-super-Mare	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
SCOTLAND					
Edinburgh	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Glasgow	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
London	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Manchester	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Nottingham	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Oxford	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Plymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Reading	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Sheffield	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Southampton	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Stoke-on-Trent	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Swansea	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Torquay	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Walsley	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warrington	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Warwick	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Wells	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Westbury	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weston-super-Mare	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny
Weymouth	0.1	57	32	63	Sunny